



## Robert M. Petranoff

October 11, 1925 - January 11, 2017

Robert M. Petranoff, 91, a long-time resident of Bloomington, Indiana, passed away peacefully January 11, 2017 at Copper Trace in Westfield, Indiana. Bob was born on October 11, 1925 to Dr. Theodore and Nell (York) Petranoff in Indianapolis. He graduated from Indianapolis Washington High School and Indiana University.

Bob married Peggy J. (McIntyre) on November 27, 1948, who survives. Upon graduation from IU, he began a long career in communications and broadcasting at a radio station in Freeport, Illinois. He and Peggy soon moved to Bloomington when he became Program Manager of WTTS and WTTV. Bob played a key role with Sarkes Tarzian when Mr. Tarzian launched WTTV in the '50s. At the time, it was the television station licensed to the smallest city in America. Petranoff also produced/directed the first-ever TV broadcast of an Indiana University basketball game in 1954.

In 1957, Bob joined the Radio and Television Department Faculty of Indiana University, teaching courses in production and station management. During those years, he also produced radio and television programs for IU for distribution to commercial stations. In 1971, Petranoff then assumed a full-time position with the Indiana University News Bureau until his retirement in 1990. Additionally, he was an investor and part-owner of various broadcast ventures including, Monroe All-Channel Cablevision, Indiana

Communications, Inc. that owned WBWB (Bloomington), and WKRY (Versailles). He is a long-time member of the Indiana Broadcasters Association, Broadcast Pioneers, Indiana Broadcasters Hall of Fame, and Indiana Football Hall of Fame.

Long active in his church, Bob served in many capacities at First Baptist Church (First United Church) of Bloomington. He also served on the Boards of Monroe County United Ministries, Bloomington Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Monroe County Red Cross, IU Federal Credit Union, and volunteered with numerous other community organizations. An avid and talented photographer, he provided many photographic services for his Church as well as for friends' weddings and special events.

Survivors include Peggy, his wife of 68 years; son, Ted (Georgia) of Tucson, AZ; daughter Claudia Schenkel (Greg) of Indianapolis; two grandchildren, Doug (Carrie) of Las Cruces, NM and Laura (Keith) Johnson of Indianapolis and 4 great-grandchildren; and his sister, Naida Huber of Harrisburg, PA. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, William and Charles.

The family is very grateful to the entire staffs at Copper Trace and Heart To Heart Hospice for their loving care. A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 14 at First United Church in Bloomington. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Bob's memory to First United Church, 2420 E. Third St., Bloomington, Indiana 47401.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN **14**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

First United Church  
2420 East Third Street  
Bloomington, IN 47401

# Tribute Wall

RJ

“ Sorry to learn of Bob's passing but great to learn that Peggy is still around. I was a partner of his in putting WBWB on the air. My kids always called him "funny guy" because he always had a joke. He was a great partner. My condolences to you all.  
Rolland and Paula Johnson, Kim and Andy

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**Rolland Johnson** - January 19, 2017 at 12:45 PM

SV

“ To the family of Bob Petranoff -  
I send my deepest condolences. My name is Susan Hays Voelkel. I was a single mom and the editor at the IU News Bureau. I worked with Bob for many years. Bob and Peggy were so good to me and my family. When my young daughter had surgery, Bob and Peggy were sitting in their car in the driveway when I brought her home, just waiting to make sure she was OK. Every Christmas, Bob showed up with a Holiday Coffee Cake that our family still talks about every year. Bob was full of fun and sparkle and brightened each day at the News Bureau. I will hold these happy memories in my heart. Much love, Susie (800 N Bell Trace Circle, Apt. 105, Bloomington, IN 47408)

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**Susan Hays Voelkel** - January 17, 2017 at 01:57 PM

MS

“ Peggy, Ted and Claudia, I was saddened to learn of Bobs passing. We spend winters in Florida and sometimes we are not current on news from home. I have so many fond memories of Bob and your family growing up in the church. Bobs ever present smile and outgoing personality could improve everyone's day. Please know you are all in our thoughts and prayers. Jack and Mary Susan (Moody) Spencer

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**mary susan spencer** - January 16, 2017 at 11:29 AM

DP

“ Mrs. Peggy Petranoff, Ted and family,  
Please accept my condolences regarding the passing of Bob Petranoff. I cannot remember when we first met, but will not forget the stops for coffee, a donut and lively discussions at the Marsh grocery. Some of the discussions involved the current activities and escapades of Ted.  
Regards, Dick Powell

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Dick Powell - January 13, 2017 at 09:32 AM

NC

“ Peggy, I am so sorry to hear of Bob's passing.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.



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Nancy & Bill Cowden - January 13, 2017 at 09:16 AM

DS

“ In early 1951 I managed to become a radio announcer at WTTS. Glenn Van Horn hired me as a courtesy to my teacher at Tech H.S. in Indianapolis. I was a terrible radio announcer. One day shortly after being hired on Sunday mornings only...Bob Petranoff came into the control room and told me I needed to have a lot more energy. After a brief lesson, I decided I'd take Mr. Petranoff's advice. I turned on the energy full force. I thought I sounded rather weird but Mr. Petranoff came back and told me my announcing was greatly improved. I recall he said, "It's like night and day." Shortly after that Mr. Petranoff again visited the control room and told me he had an opening for a booth announcer on Sunday nights. The shift would be working in television. I had no TV set. Most people had no TV set. But here I was, announcing on WTTV. I loved working on Sundays because we had a wonderful show called, "Your Show of Shows." I'd never seen anything like it. But I was hooked on TV and decided to spend most of my life working in it. God bless Bob Petranoff. He changed my life.

*Dave Smith*

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David Smith - January 13, 2017 at 08:23 AM