



Robert Hammersla

April 25, 1938 - June 4, 2008

Robert Michael Hammersla, 70, of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, and Pompano Beach, Florida, died June 4, 2008, at Washington Regional Medical Center, Fayetteville, Arkansas. Born April 25, 1938 in Rochester, New York, he was the son of Harry J. Hammersla and Genevieve Keifer Hammersla. He was self-employed and was a member of the Rotary International. He married Pamela Bennett on November 18, 1961, in Rochester, New York. He was of the Methodist Faith. Survivors include his wife Pamela of the home; one son, Michael Hammersla and wife Kristan of Florida; two daughters, Jacquelyn Mellen and husband Robert of New Hampshire, and Christine Wackes and husband Troy of Oklahoma; five grandchildren, Kayla Wackes, Cassandra Mellen, Jessica Mellen, Taylor Hammersla and Colton Hammersla.

Memorial services will be 2:00 p.m., Saturday, June 7, 2008, at Wasson Memorial Chapel, Siloam Springs, Arkansas, with Rev. Lonnie Nelson officiating. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to a charity of choice in memory of Robert Hammersla.

Tribute Wall

CF

“ A special friend for 33 years. Devoted to his family and his businesses. A true man of the sea. "So long Bob, 'til we meet again!" My sincere condolences.

Christy Farber - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

JW

“ I was trying to think of something appropriate and meaningful to say about my friend Bob, "The Hammer", as he preferred to be called. At my age things like this set me back a bit and cause me to take pause and, more deeply appreciate my friends and family. I've known Bob a long time, we fished together and even won a tournament in Bimini, long ago. He loved fishing and he loved Bimini. He was a part of my life in many ways, so I will always remember him and he will surely be missed. He was a big man with a big heart, if a friend of his was ill or especially if they passed away, to Bob it was a very sensitive and emotional issue, Bob had deeper feelings for his friends than most people probably thought. Thank you Bob for the good times we enjoyed together. I'll miss u.

*I recently received this email and I thought I would share it with anyone who will take the time to read it.
I think this is appropriate and meaningful.*

I Believe

A birth certificate shows that we were born; a death certificate shows that we died; pictures show that we lived! Have a seat . . . Relax. And read this slowly.

I believe - That just because two people argue, it doesn't mean they don't love each other. And just because they don't argue, it doesn't mean they do.

I believe - That we don't have to change friends if we understand that friends change.

I believe - That no matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while and you must forgive them for that.

I believe - That true friendship continues to grow, even over the longest distance. Same goes for true love.

I believe - That you can do something in an instant that will give you heartache for life.

I believe - That it's taking me a long time to become the person I want to be.

I believe - That you should always leave loved ones with loving words.

It may be the last time you see them.

I believe - That you can keep going long after you think you can't.

I believe - That we are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel.

I believe - That either you control your attitude or it controls you.

I believe - That heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences.

I believe - That money is a lousy way of keeping score.

I believe - That sometimes the people you expect to kick you when you're down will be the ones to help you get back up.

I believe - That sometimes when I'm angry I have the right to be angry, but that doesn't give me the right to be cruel.

I believe - That maturity has more to do with what types of experiences

*you've had and what you've learned from them and less to do with
how
many birthdays you've celebrated.*

*I believe - That it isn't always enough to be forgiven by others.
Sometimes you have to learn to forgive yourself.*

*I believe - That no matter how bad your heart is broken, the world
doesn't stop for your grief.*

*I believe - That our background and circumstances may have
influenced
who we are, but we are responsible for who we become.*

*I believe - Two people can look at the exact same thing and see
something totally different.*

*I believe - That your life can be changed in a matter of hours by
people who don't even know you.*

*I believe - That even when you think you have no more to give,
when a
friend cries out to you, you will find the strength to help.*

*I believe - That credentials on the wall do not make you a decent
human
being.*

*I believe - That the people you care about most in life are taken
from
you too soon.*

*I believe - The happiest people don't necessarily have the
best of everything; they just make the best of everything they have.*

*God bless you Hammer..
Joe & JoAnn*

Joe & JoAnn Woodard - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

TW

“ *Pam and Family:
The entire Waldo/Michaels family has lost a dear friend. We will miss him so but we'll always have our memories of the all the great times we shared over the years. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. See you Saturday.
Tom Waldo*

Tom Waldo - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

JB

“ *We will never forget our friend, the loving and caring "Hammer", from the boat shows in South Florida to the docks of the Bimini Big Game Fishing Club in the Bahamas. Bob, we will miss you.
Jim & Patty Brown
Boynton Beach, FL*

Jim & Patty Brown - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

RB

“ Hammer you will be missed by all your friends. Bob you showed me how to fit in & have fun back in the early 80s over in Bimini, and here in Pompano. You are truly a legend, with all of your fellow fisherman. What a pleasure it was, no matter where I was, out of the corner of my eye I would see the Hammer with that big smile and hand outstretched to greet and then talk out the good old days FISHING...

See ya at the pink church.

My heart and prays for Pam & Family

Tight Lines Reed & Mary Alice

Reed & Mary Alice Blair - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

DM

“ My Dad, Cliff Maddock, passed away when I was 10 in 1986 and I don't have too many clear memories of him. I joined Pompano Beach Lighthouse Rotary last year and volunteered at the Seafood Festival. Bob was there and when we saw each other we immediately recognized each other. It was so strange because I was so young the last time I had seen him. We both got tears in our eyes. I will never forget that day. I felt like I got my Dad back for just a moment. If he could remember who I was after all of those years, I can just imagine how special he was to everyone's life he was in continuously. My prayers are with all of his family and friends, he will be missed!

Dannielle Maddock - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

JS

“ Our heartfelt sympathy is with Bob's family and all his friends. We're so very sorry to hear of his passing although we haven't seen him in years. He was part of the marine industry here in South Florida and is remembered fondly.

Sincerely,
Jan Saxton

Jan Saxton - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

RA

“ We just recently enjoyed reminiscing our fun times in Bimini with Hammer at a boat show not too long ago, and just can't believe we won't be able to do the same again at future gatherings. We will miss him greatly. Robin & Todd Anderson

Robin & Todd Anderson - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

LC

“ I was the Office Manager for Boca Architects (John Diehl) for a while and one of the highlights was when Hammer came into the office. He was a wonderful man and I was very sad to hear of the news. He will be missed.

My Condolences go out to the Hammersla Family,

Lisa, Tim and Zachary Clark

Lisa Clark - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

BB

“ Rest your soul Hammer. you were a good man and a good friend and we shared some lovely times together in the Islands.

Bailey Bobbitt - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

SG

“ I too met Hammer 15 years ago at the Bimini Big Game Club, I was priviledged to venture to many Bahama and Florida fishing destinations in his company. What best sums up our relationship was how he referred to me as "son" the last 5 or so years, he was never at a lost with fatherly advice for me. Hammer you will be not only with me in spirit as my travels continue but a little bit of "Hammer" will be in each illustration I create from this moment on. Thank you my friend, we all know now that there's another great fisherman sailing the waters above.

Steve Goione - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

MF

“ Pam,

We are so sorry for your sadness. We are praying for your comfort.

Mitch & Linda Fincher - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

PJ

“ Can't say how much we enjoyed the many times Hammer told us great fish stories and had the ability to make each of us feel a part of the group. I truly think back on the many happy times in Bimini and how he fathered the clan and participated with care.

He tried to give me one of his little hammerhead sharks and I would not let him. Today I wish I had, because now I understand that he wanted me to know how much he cared for me as a friend.

May the happiness he shared with others bring a smile to you when your recall the many people you met through his travels.

I really think that Hammer would want us to remember him as a true friend. What better can we be after all.

The following quote sums up my thoughts----

You can't do much about the length of your life, but you can do a lot about its depth and width.

May the love and life experiences your husband and father shared with you give you peace.

Big Higs, Miss Paula

Barcardi Nickname: No-Hook-UPs

Paula J. James - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

RC

“ *Pam & Family,*

We are deeply saddened at the untimely passing of our good friend. We have shared many great times and memories that we will cherish in our hearts forever. We will continue to love and think about Bob frequently.

Ron and Colleen Di Chario

Ron & Colleen Di Chario - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

AF

“ *I met Hammer at the Small Boat Tournament in 2001 at the Big Game Club in Bimini. It wasn't long until I would see Hammer at all the tournaments. He always had a story to tell and loved tournaments and fishing. He and I had living in NW Arkansas in common. We talked about the Razorbacks, how beautiful Arkansas was, fishing tournaments, etc. I always got a report on his wife and kids, although I never met them. Hammer will be missed.*

Allison Ford-Wade - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

SW

“ I am a Rotarian in Illinois and always tried to sit next to the Big Fella when doing Rotary make-ups in Pompano.
My address at Sea Haven is 817A so I saw Bob there too of course.

I so enjoyed talking to him the last three years I was down there. My mother was Chiz, the red headed dancer at parties who passed three years ago at 93.

Best to the family and I will always remember Hammer as such a special guy and always nice to me.

God bless,

GIL

SUSAN WEISS - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

CC

“*"Hammer!" He was called by all
A gentle giant, who walked straight and tall
A Peacemaker, a Story-teller, a Family man
Who loved his people and his land.*

*We laughed at his antics, and listened for a while
Of tales he would tell - all without a smile,
Sometimes too serious, a trademark of his
Remember him with love, and dry the tears.*

*We now speak of him in the past,
About the man, and the shadow he cast,
And wished that he was here with us today,
Instead of having to mourn and to pray.*

*He is now riding in his "Bubbamabile"
In Heaven's lane through green, green fields
Waving to the Angels, while burning rubber,
This is how I will remember: "My friend Bubba!"*

Curtis Carroll - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

MC

“*We just cannot believe that Bob is gone and Mike still picks up the phone to give him a call, as they spoke every day for so long now. We will truly miss his smiling face and his gift of gab! He was a wonderful friend. We only hope that we can remain in constant contact with Pam.*

Mike and Karen Childs - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

DS

“ I was saddened and shocked to hear that you had passed. You were always such a powerful figure at the Big Game Club, tournament or not. You will be missed. We will make a point to talk about you at the next tournament. The usual, "where the heck is Hammer?" will be asked each day.
All my best to your family.

Derke Snodgrass - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

MB

“ Dear Pam:
I am so so sorry! I should have gotten on a plane sooner if I thought it was going to be goodbye! My thoughts and prayers are with you, dear friend!!
Oh Hammer, how will I have my rigatoni a la vodka at Casa Bella without you!! You will be missed by us all. Another icon and legend has passed but we won't forget you Hammer, and I am sure Heaven will be a lot more fun, now that you are there!!
Thank you for all of your kind words and wise words over the last 20 years and for that special "Marlin Dance"!!

Maura Brassil - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

DC

“ "Hammer" was great fun and always so supportive of our group "The Billfish Foundation". He was truly a larger than life character chock full of great stories.

Deborah Cummings - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

SG

“ Bob loved sportfishing and the tournaments, especially in the Bahamas. He even won the Bacardi Billfish Tournament in the early 80s. He was well known and involved for many, many years. Pam, if there is anything I can do, please let me know. My best wishes go out to you, your children, and grandchildren.
Regards, Sue

Sue Graves - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

ES

“ Dear Pam: It is so difficult for Ernie and I to believe that "The Hammer" is no longer with us here on earth after our approximate 50 years of friendship. He was larger than life itself and could do anything--- this certainly was not suppose to happen. He will be dearly missed and was such a wonderful friend. Our deepest sympathies are with you and your children. We hope we will hear from you soon and often.
Sandy and Ernie

Ernie and Sandy Stone - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

LW

“ Pam and Family,
Our thoughts and prayers have been with you since Bob's passing. We will never forget the fun weekend at the Lake! If we can do anything for you or the family here in Florida, please don't hesitate to call. Please keep in touch. With our love.
Nancy and Larry

Larry and Nancy Whitney - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

DG

“ Dear Pam and Family,

We were shocked and saddened to learn last week of Bob's passing. I have many happy memories of our many years in Canadice and then the occasional get togethers in Florida through the years. Bob was always so great to call when you came up North during the Summers.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family.

Don & Judy Graser - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

DJ

“ *Bob, we will miss you, we always looked forward to the times you and Pam would be coming our way for a visit. Our deepest sympathy to the family of a wonderful man and very dear friend.*

Dawne and Steve Josh - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

NC

“ *Hi Pam: On behalf of our high school class, we want to offer our condolences. We were shocked to read this in the paper. Bob will be remembered as a great guy with a big heart. Thanks to him, he went out of his way to get us our 1957 automobiles at all our reunions. May he rest in peace and God Bless You and your family. Sincerely, Natalie*

Natalie Eisenberg Cohn - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

R(

“ Dear Pam, Michael, and Family,
I am truly sorry for your loss. I remember like it was yesterday meeting Bob at Cricket and Mike's wedding and a few times after that happy occasion. He seemed bolder than life and always made a family dinner or friendly gathering more memorable. Bob was fun-loving during those times and never without a smile when I saw him. I shall never forget his hearty laugh and impish tales. Losing a beloved family member always makes our hearts heavy but as you gather together to remember Bob's living it will be your love for each other that eases your pain.

I extend my sincerest sympathy to each of you,
CJ Emrich

Robert Mills (General) - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

RJ

“ I will miss the big guy, he was a very good friend. Richard

Richard & Cindy Johnson - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

RR

“ Pam and family. We were so very sorry to hear of Bob's passing. He was a great guy and we will miss him.
We will always remember all the good times that we had together.

Red & Betty Rose - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

HG

“ PAM AND FAMILY, WE WERE SHOCKED AND SADDENED TO HEAR OF BOBS PASSING.
HE WILL BE MISSED BY HIS MANY FRIENDS AT SEAHAVEN IN POMPANO AND HIS BFHS CLASS OF 1957 HERE IN ROCHESTER.

HARRY & ADELE GAN - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

VB

“ Aunt Pam, Jackie, Chrissie and Michael,
I'm so sorry for your loss.
Much love,
Valerie and Charlotte

Valerie Bennett - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

ML

“ Pam&Family, I,m very sorry to learn of Bobs' passing.It's been quite a few years since you moved to FL.and Ihunted with Bob and the gang at Canadice, we've touch with you ,but haven't forgotten either of you or the (kids) adults now.Please accept our Prayers and sympathy at this time of loss, and may the Lord grant you peace, and comfort.

Mr.&Mrs. Doug Lillie - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

KM

“ I work with Christy and she is such a great person. She is so smart and sweet and has helped me more than anyone will ever know. Thank you, Christy.
I had the priviledge to meet Bob and Pam on a couple of occasions. They invited me to Kayla's 17th Birthday party at Calahan's. We had such a great time and Bob made sure we were all laughing. I am proud to have known him, even if it was for such a short time. My prayers and thoughts are with you all.
Love,
Kathy

Kathy Miller - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

PG

“ *Bob was such a hearty, funloving and faithful participant for several years as our perennial "visiting Rotarian" from his Florida club and more recently as a permanent resident here. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob's family. We will miss him.*

Pat Gustavson - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

VO

“ *Pam,*

Just to refresh your memory, I worked for Norcross Helicopters and dated Ron for years.

I cant believe this many years have gone by. I am so sorry to hear of Bob's passing. My condolences to you and the family.

Val

Val Olsheski - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

TC

“ *Very sorry to hear of Bob's passing he was a great friend back in the day..our thoughts are with you..Tom*

Tom Conroy - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM

NC

“ I haven't seen Uncle Bob since our family reunion several years ago. I do have many wonderful childhood memories of Springwater. He was always fun & happy to see you! My love to all my distant cousins and their families who I haven't seen in many, many years. My heart goes out to Aunt Pam. I hope to be able to come visit them sometime soon.

Love Brenda & Family

Natalie Eisenberg Cohn - September 19, 2012 at 11:29 AM