



Robert J. Bates

August 21, 1937 - October 28, 2025

Robert J. Bates, of Longwood, FL, passed away peacefully on October 28, 2025, at the age of 88. He was born on August 21, 1937, in Wapello County, Iowa, to James and Ariel Bates.

After graduating from high school, Robert enlisted in the United States Navy, where he proudly served for 20 years. He later earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Central Florida and spent 25 years with the Frito-Lay Corporation.

In his spare time, Robert enjoyed bowling, working with computers, watching sports, and cooking. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather whose warm smile and kind spirit will be cherished by all who knew him.

Robert is survived by his wife of 62 years, Glenda Anne Bates of Longwood; his children, Glenda Aileen Gocek of Land O' Lakes and Robert Joseph Bates of Winter Park; and his grandchildren, Kalyn Bates of Orlando, Anastasia Gocek of Tampa, Michael Gocek of Land O' Lakes, and Jasmine Gocek of Land O' Lakes. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, as well as his sisters, Joyce DeGrande of Illinois and Joy Vagotis of Ohio.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association.

Cemetery Details

Cape Canaveral National Cemetery

5525 US-1 North
Mims, FL 32754
(321) 383-2638
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/capecanaveral.asp>

Previous Events

Graveside Committal Service

NOV 24. 10:00 AM (ET)

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Mims, FL 32754
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Tribute Wall

TW

“ My husband Ray Wonder and I will cherish all the good times with Bob, Glenda, Aileen, Eddie, and the rest of my family family over the years for the many holiday gatherings, adoptions, and birthdays at the house in Land O' Lakes. They were humble times, filled with great joy. Bob and my husband were of the same generation and shared a brotherly camaraderie, especially about the Navy on the back porch. Bob was a sweet, gentle soul, a center of gravity in the home. May his memory be a blessing.

Terri Kay Wonder - November 26, 2025 at 11:14 AM

TW

“ Terri W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert J. Bates.

Terri W. - November 26, 2025 at 11:07 AM

BW

“ Bob & Deb Wise planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert J. Bates.

Bob & Deb Wise - November 22, 2025 at 10:09 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Robert J. Bates.



November 22, 2025 at 10:09 AM