



Robert Urban Nannig

March 26, 2024

Robert Urban Nannig of North Kingstown, RI. Bob Nannig died peacefully at home surrounded by his family on March 26, 2024. Born November 27, 1958 to Urban Nannig and Francis Gannon Nannig, Bob was married to JoAnn Domingoes Nannig for 40 years. He was the proud father to Jade Medeiros and Haley Nannig, as well as grandfather to Ophelia Medeiros. He is survived by siblings Doug, Linda, Paul, and many nieces and nephews.

Bob graduated from North Kingstown High School in 1976 and then went on to receive his Bachelor of Physical Education and Health from Springfield College in 1980. During his freshman year at Springfield he met his future wife and partner in all things, JoAnn. He received his Masters of Administration of Physical Education in 1999 from the University of Rhode Island.

Bob spent his life advancing gymnastics in the state of Rhode Island. He was an All-State gymnast and competitive member of the Springfield College gymnastics team. After his years of competing were over he moved on to developing future gymnasts as a coach and teacher. Bob taught gymnastics at the North Kingstown Recreation Department and many private gymnastics clubs and camps, inspiring thousands of young athletes. He was the owner of the North Kingstown Gymnastics Club before becoming the head Women's Gymnastics Coach at Rhode Island College from 2003-2018. While coaching at RIC Bob was named the ECAC coach of the year (2012). Bob proudly coached his daughter Jade to numerous All-State gymnastics titles, passing on his legacy.

Bob was an educator for 34 years in the Cranston School Department, ending his career at Cranston High School West. He received the RIAHPERD Physical Education Teacher of the year for developing numerous alternative physical education programs including kayaking, fishing, biking, and skateboarding as well as for his focus on helping children who struggled in traditional classroom settings.

While still in high school Bob achieved the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America when he became an Eagle Scout. He also received the Order of the Arrow promoting camping, adventure, and service to others. His love of the outdoors didn't end when he left the Boy Scouts. Bob loved the outdoors and outdoor sports, including: water skiing, camping, hiking, backcountry and alpine skiing, and was known for ripping it up in The White Mountains.

Bob loved Shore Acres where he spent his lifetime boating on Fishing Cove and was the proud owner of The Optimist, his 30 foot Luhrs Sportfish. He was an avid fisherman and spent many summers with JoAnn living on his boat in Old Harbor and fishing off Block Island Sound. Bob loved to share his passion for the ocean, and introduced his friends, family, and coworkers to the sport of fishing. Bob was a founding member of the Bissel Cove Yacht Club and multiple year winner of the High Hook Fishing Tournament.

Most recently, Bob used his woodworking and carpentry skills to restore Haley's historic log cabin in Maine. In the process he passed on his knowledge of craftsmanship, hard work, and his positive DIY attitude to his daughter.

Bob approached life with optimism and a positive attitude. He dedicated his life to his family, friends, athletes and students. He was happiest on the water with a fishing pole in hand. Bob— THE ULTIMATE OPTIMIST

The family hopes you will join us for a Celebration of Life for Bob to be scheduled soon. In lieu of flowers consider donating in Bob's honor to Save the Bay or Keeping Kids Fishing at 37B Meeting Street, Coventry, RI 02816, an organization teaching kids to fish and donating fishing gear to local youth.

Tribute Wall

CM

“ Bob and I met in 10th grade at NKHS - we were in every class that year together and ended up becoming great friends, I remember going out in his boat and parties at his house and he always embraced every adventure and had such a positive attitude- we then lost touch as we both went our separate ways, college, marriages and reconnected at our 15th HS reunion where we got to know each others families and have been hanging out ever since- Springsteen, bikerides, Block Island , boat rides, fishing trips (Garth & Bob) , weddings 35 years of so much fun and great memories- he really was such a positive person, generous, kind and truly an inspiration- he really did live more in 65 years then most people ever do - I know everyone is going to miss you like crazy Bob - and Joann, Hade & Haley threw you the best sendoff on a picture perfect day - I know you had something to do with that - RIP my friend - Love, Cindy & Garth

Cindy Moran - June 06, 2024 at 08:48 PM

CM

Jade -

Cindy Moran - June 06, 2024 at 08:50 PM

TD

“ I just heard of Bob’s passing. We coached together at several clubs in the early days. I was a judge for years so I would see him on and off for 30 years. I remember when Jade was born and I also judged her over the years. I fondly remember how he had “truck trouble” in front of my house on Congdon Hill with that antique truck he had. I was worried he’d get hit. He coaxed it back to life. He was always wonderful with kids and a gift to gymnastics. I don’t think he ever changed. He was always sweet, kind, caring and a total gentleman. Good-bye, my friend. Good job with life...Teddy Davis

Teddy Davis - April 08, 2024 at 11:25 AM

JE

“ To the Nannig family: I was quite saddened to hear of Bob's passing. He coached my (step)daughter Violet at RIC, and he was far and away my favorite of her coaches over the years. He treated all of the young ladies with respect and dignity. May you all be surrounded by love and light, and may happy memories give you all solace and peace.

Jason English - April 05, 2024 at 03:52 PM

CL

“ My condolences for your great loss of your brother. My prayers are with you and your family in God's love Cheryl Livesey

Cheryl Livesey - April 04, 2024 at 11:50 PM

KK

“ *The Shore Acres bunch growing up with Bob was always fun. Bonfires at the point and exploring Cornelius Island across from Bob's house. He was always in and around the water, with his love of fishing and boating, and a big, warm smile. Sending love and condolences to Joann and all the Nanning's.*

Katie Kranz

katie kranz - April 02, 2024 at 07:14 AM

AG

“ *JoAnn, so sorry for your loss. I hope the love of family and friends buoys you at this difficult time.*

Avis Gunther-Rosenberg - April 01, 2024 at 11:14 AM

BN

“ *My condolences to the entire Nannig family....Great people all...*

Brett Nazareth - April 01, 2024 at 07:33 AM

FF

“ *I send Joann and all of Bob's family my thoughts & prayer. So many years and unforgettable times.*

Fran Hennessey & family - March 31, 2024 at 09:13 PM

MM

“ I met Bob in elementary school he was 1 year ahead of me. We were neighbors in Shore Acres and became best friends. We had so many great times, fond memories, and oh boy did we had so many adventures. He was my water skiing partner. Bob would come to my house and come to my window which just had the screen on it and wake me by saying “Catch a wave” @ 0530. We would water ski for a couple hours before we had to get ready for school. Great times ! I met Joanne when they started dating at Springfield college. What a great woman and perfect partner for Bob. We all had some adventures up there ! He will be deeply missed but never forgotten. I am so blessed to have gotten to talk to him about one week before he passed. We reminisced about some of our adventures and memories. So sad someone like Bob being taken before his time. RIP.

Mike Mello - March 31, 2024 at 06:44 PM

JA

Thanks for your kind words Mike. Bob always thought of you as one of his best friends. He loved his trip to Alaska where you guided the gang on all types of adventures. We always talked about heading back up there to visit. Take care...hope to see you back in RI sometime!

Jo Ann - April 01, 2024 at 07:10 PM

JH

“ Bob was my gymnastics coach for a short time a long time ago!! . He was so kind, and happy, I will never forget his infectious smile May he rest in eternal peace and may God send comfort to those he left behind
Julie

julie Leland Huddon - March 30, 2024 at 06:51 PM

JA

Thank you for your kind words!

Jo Ann - April 01, 2024 at 07:11 PM

JT

“ Bob was always ready with a smile raring to go no matter what it was. Joann, Jade and Haley he will truly be missed. We find ourselves smiling at all the good times shared with Bob. We are hoping you can find those smiles too.

Jan & Tom - March 30, 2024 at 03:35 PM

JA

Thanks! Love you guys!

Jo Ann - April 01, 2024 at 07:12 PM

JT

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Jan & Tom - March 30, 2024 at 03:31 PM



“ So many wonderful memories growing up in Shore Acres, my friends & I were much younger, but Bobby & his friends were always kind. We loved watching him & his friends boating around the cove & he would entertain us by doing impromptu backflips. In later years he was always there to lend a hand when my parents needed help with their dock or boat. I never saw him without a smile & a kind word. The positive energy and kindness he showed to others caused a ripple effect everywhere he went & that impact will be felt for a very long time.

Pam Hollaway - March 30, 2024 at 12:06 PM

JO

“ Bob was a great guy and had a great sense of humor . He was always a very positive influence on all of us. Smiling all the time you really felt the happy vibes When you were around him. Rest in peace Bob.

Joe - March 30, 2024 at 11:18 AM

TD

“ Such a beautiful tribute of Bob and his life. He was the Ultimate Optimist and so humble and truly a genuine caring person. We hold our memories of great times together. Time on the water and his pride and love of his family. Heaven has another Angel, and we will miss Bob greatly. But he will be well remembered because he touched all of us in his unique way as a , mentor father, husband dear friend and the legacy he leaves behind. He will be in our stories, so he will always be with us. I know he is casting his rod in the heavenly seas . Our prayers and love to Joanne, Jade, and Haley during this most difficult time. Rest in Peace Bob, you will be deeply missed,



Theresa & Andy Dickinson - March 30, 2024 at 10:01 AM

JA

Thank you...hope we will see you at his Celebration of life this Spring!

Jo Ann - April 01, 2024 at 07:13 PM

KH

“ *Bob was such a great person, family man, friend, educator, living life to the fullest, and sharing his passions with many students, family, and friends.*

Such a model to live by.

It was an honor to be his friend and be included in his life and activities.

Kent Hayward - March 30, 2024 at 09:35 AM

JA

Thank you and Sue for all your support during this difficult time ❤️

Jo Ann - April 01, 2024 at 07:14 PM

JO

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*

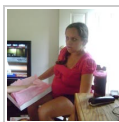


JoAnn - March 30, 2024 at 05:42 AM

TD



Theresa & Andy Dickinson - March 30, 2024 at 10:07 AM



I am so sorry I remember when he built the sun room and the beck of your old house and when he was working for the rec department he will be missed

Elizabeth Lonergan - March 30, 2024 at 10:28 AM

VV

*I'm so sorry for your loss.
Sending all our thoughts and love ❤️
🌹 RIP*

vibeke Volsgaard - March 30, 2024 at 10:56 AM

KM

What a great picture of Bob! Such a loss.

Kathy McCabe - March 30, 2024 at 03:23 PM

KG

Bob practiced joy in all he endeavored. He gave joy and care in working with his students. He exuded pure joy in fishing with his friends. He loved his family with love and joy. What a life well lived~

Kristin Gannon - March 30, 2024 at 09:38 PM

KL

Bob and I go way back to gymnastics at North Kingstown HS; he was a great friend and part of a great group of friends; we all built memories in our Jr. High and High School years. Staying in touch, he touched my family through sailing in later years and being a real "North Kingstowndite." he settled and became a part of the town. We were so happy when he settled in NK with his JoAnn and raised his family there. He will be sadly missed, and our blessings on the entire family: Kim, the Lewis family, and Jochen.

Kimberli Lewis - March 31, 2024 at 01:16 PM