



## Robert Bruce Gayhart

November 24, 1942 - June 30, 2025

Robert Bruce Gayhart, 82, of Indianapolis, passed away peacefully June 30, 2025. He was born November 24, 1942 in Cincinnati, Ohio to the late John and Lola (Martin) Gayhart. Bob was a graduate of Hughes High School, Cincinnati, Ohio. He received his undergraduate degree from Bellarmine University and his master's and PhD degrees from the University of Illinois. Bob taught in the Mund-Lagowski Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Bradley University from 1969 - 2007. While his areas of expertise were general chemistry and inorganic chemistry, he had a real passion for the history of chemistry as well. He taught a special topics course on the history of chemistry several times for the Department. In addition, Bob had a fondness for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Bradley, which serves the Peoria area community with a focus on people aged 50+. Bob took several courses through OLLI, and taught for OLLI as well, with courses entitled "A Brief History of Chemistry", "Chemistry as Art," and "Chemical Foundations: The Periodic Table." During his time at Bradley, he co-taught "Chemistry and Civilization" as part of the Study Abroad program in London. Another of Bob's passions was for the Boy Scouts of America. He enthusiastically promoted the mission of that organization to people that he knew and was involved in troop leadership at the St. Mark's chapter in Peoria. He was also present at Scout Roundtables for many years. Everybody who has been involved in the Boy Scouts in Peoria for more than 15 years knows

who Bob Gayhart is. He was also an active volunteer in the Illinois Heartland Local Section of the American Chemical Society for many years.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Peace Cemetery, 9001 Haverstick Road, Indianapolis, IN 46240.

Robert is survived by his sister, Marilyn J. Gayhart Dapper; nephew, Robert Dapper; and nieces, Lauren Sallay and Theresa Ebbs. He was preceded in death by his brother, Douglas Gayhart.

Final arrangements and care are entrusted to Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel.

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JUL 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Peace Cemetery  
9001 Haverstick Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

# Tribute Wall

JV

“ I appreciated Bob first as a teacher and later when I became a teacher myself as a gifted colleague. His work with the chemistry contest hosted by Bradley was appreciated for the opportunity for the better students to compete--and the "fire and smoke" demonstrations were always a highlight. Later he became involved in the Central Illinois Scouting Historical Society and it was nice to share time there occasionally.  
Jeff Vallosio

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Jeff Vallosio - July 23, 2025 at 10:13 PM

FS

“ I played guitar with Bob at St. Boniface Catholic Church (now called St. Ann) throughout high school. He was a man of great faith and dedication. May he rest in peace.

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Frederick Strassburger - July 19, 2025 at 07:47 PM

JG

“ I thought of Bob as my brother, Bob. He was actually the best brother-in-law I could have wished for. Being an only child, I inherited Bob when Douglas and I married. Next to Doug, Bob was one of the nicest men I ever met. After Doug passed away it was Bob that I kept in my heart as family. I'll always miss you both! Love,  
Jeanne Sulem Gayhart

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Jeanne Gayhart - July 19, 2025 at 05:15 PM

LV

Bob was a Dear Friend. He was a Great Helper at Garage Sales in Peoria . Lisa V

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Lisa D Vogel - February 15 at 03:14 PM

AL

“ Dr. Gayhart was a great man. He was my boy scout troop leader for Troop 225 and also a kind and knowledgeable friend afterwards. He shared many books and chemistry knowledge with my young son and I as he did with countless others. He will be greatly missed.

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**Arthur Lampitt** - July 17, 2025 at 01:45 AM

JM

“ Bob was my former teacher, colleague and forever friend. In the over 50+ years that I've known Bob, we shared many happy times, lunches, conversations, even the weddings of my daughter and my son. I will miss Bob's kind heart and warm smile.

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**Judy Moroz** - July 15, 2025 at 12:29 AM

KB

“ Dr. Gayhart wanted his students to get as much chemistry data as possible in the time allowed! He also showed the utmost respect for everyone whether fellow faculty, students or administration!

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**Kathleen Bollenbach** - July 11, 2025 at 11:58 AM