

Abrams, Robert

N-Obits

NYACK

Village native Robert Abrams, public works director, dies at 57

Decorated vet recalled by mayor as 'teddy bear'

Gerald McKinstry 1-8-05
The Journal News

Services are scheduled today for Robert L. "Bobby" Abrams, a lifelong Nyack resident who was a decorated war veteran and led the village's Department of Public Works.

Abrams, who died Monday, was 57.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9215 will have a private service at noon, followed by one at the Nyack Fire Department at 12:15 p.m. The public is invited to attend the 12:30 p.m.

service at Hannemann Funeral Home, 88 S. Broadway, Nyack. Private burial will be at Rockland County Veterans Cemetery.

Abrams was born Oct. 8, 1947, to Claude Jr. and Eleanor Bohr Abrams in Nyack, where he attended school. He served in the Army in Vietnam and received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. He was a member of VFW Post 9215 and had served as commander and quartermaster.

Current Commander George Donzella, who knew Abrams for 20 years, said he had served the post well and was diligent in his duties.

Abrams worked for the South Nyack DPW and in 1983 joined Nyack's department as a motor equipment operator. In 2003, he was appointed director of the department.

Assistant Superintendent Victor Overton worked with Abrams for 10 years, but said he had known him since he was a boy.

"He was like a stepfather to us," said

Overton. "He was a supervisor, boss and a friend."

Known for being vociferous and speaking his mind, colleagues said he was also generous.

"He was an excellent individual. He had a heart of gold," Overton said. "He would give you the shirt off his back."

Abrams was a member of the Nyack Fire Department, serving as a volunteer at the Jackson Engine Company No. 3.

Fire Commissioner Keith R. Taylor knew Abrams from the neighborhood and worked with him in village matters.

"He is part of the fabric of Nyack," Taylor said. "Bobby was a great guy. Deep

"He is part of the fabric of Nyack"

Keith R. Taylor, village fire commissioner

down, he was a real kind, gentle person."

Mayor John Shields, who

along with the village board appointed Abrams to his DPW post, shared those sentiments.

"I will miss him tremendously. Bob Abrams presented himself as a big gruff guy, but he was a big teddy bear."

Abrams is survived by one daughter, Ursula Bloodgood of Central Nyack; sons Robert and Jonathan, both of Nyack; three brothers, Kenneth of Conyers, Ga., Dexter of Nanuet and George of Garnerville; five sisters, Mary Jane Petras of Garnerville, Helen and John Mullen of Port Jervis, Rosemary and Mike Johnson of Garnerville, Claudia Fornaro of Garnerville and Eleanor and Dave Quick of Port Jervis; and two granddaughters. A sister, Susan Brittney, and a brother, Claude III, died earlier.

Memorial donations may be made to People to People, 261 Mountainview Ave., Nyack, NY 10960.

Call Hannemann Funeral Home at 845-358-0573 for service information.

ABRAMS, ROBERT L
(Continued)

Mullen of Port Jervis, Rosemary and Mike Johnson of Garnerville, Claudia Fornaro of Garnerville and Eleanor and Dave Quick of Port Jervis.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 8, 2005 at 12:30 pm at the Hannemann Funeral Home, Inc. in Nyack.

Prior to the memorial service the VFW Post 9215 will hold a brief service beginning at 12 Noon immediately followed by a firematic service held by the Nyack Fire Department at 12:15 pm. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to People to People, 261 Mountainview Avenue, Central Nyack, NY 10960.

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ABRAMS, ROBERT L

Robert L. Abrams a lifelong Nyack resident died January 3, 2005. He was 57 years old.

Bob was born on October 8, 1947 to Claude, Jr. and Eleanor (Bohr) Abrams in Nyack, NY.

He served his country in the United States Army during Vietnam where he received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

Bob was employed by the Village of South Nyack Dept. of Public Works and in May of 1983 he joined the Village of Nyack Dept. of Public Works as a motor equipment operator.

In May 2003, he was appointed by the Village Board as Superintendent of the DPW. Bob was a member of the Jackson Engine Co. #3 of the Nyack Fire Department. He was a member of Post 9215 VFW in Upper Nyack where he served as past Commander and past Quartermaster.

He is predeceased by his sister Susan Brittney and brother Claude III.

He is survived by one daughter Ursula Bloodgood of Central Nyack, two sons Robert and Jonathan both of Nyack, two granddaughters Kimberly and Alyson. Bob is also survived by three brothers Kenneth and Elaine of Conyers, GA, Dexter and Sharon of Nanuet, NY and George and Patricia of Garnerville, NY. As well as five sisters Mary Jane Petras of Garnerville, Helen and John