



Robert Adams Jr.

June 19, 1942 - June 17, 2025

Robert J. Adams Jr., age 82, passed away on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, in Chicago, where he was a lifelong resident. He was born on June 19, 1942, to Robert Adams Sr. and Lucille Adams. Lucille passed away just two days after his birth, and Robert was lovingly raised by Holly Adams, who became the mother he would know and cherish throughout his life.

Robert was a proud graduate of St. Mary of the Lake Catholic School in Chicago, where he met many of his lifelong friends. He later attended Senn High School, also in Chicago. He went on to serve his country honorably in the United States Air Force. After his military service, he earned his undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and later obtained his Juris Doctor from Kent Law School.

In 1976, through his dedication and tireless work ethic, he founded his law firm, Robert J. Adams & Associates, beginning a remarkable 49-year career as a bankruptcy attorney. Known affectionately as the "Bill Slayer" by clients and colleagues, Robert was one of the founding members of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys (NACBA) and a proud recipient of its Lifetime Achievement Award.

Throughout his nearly five decades in practice, Robert helped thousands of individuals and families navigate financial hardship with compassion and

integrity. His advocacy changed lives, and his mentorship shaped a generation of young attorneys.

He loved practicing law, reading, watching movies, and—most of all—spending time with his family. He was a devoted father, proud grandfather, and loving husband who cherished every moment spent with his children and grandchildren. Robert was known for his sharp wit, generous heart, and unwavering sense of justice. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him, especially his lifelong childhood friends, with whom he met every Wednesday for their cherished “Romeo Lunch.”

Robert is survived by his beloved wife, Liqun “Linda” Xiong, who was his devoted partner and a true angel during his illness, providing constant care and unwavering love. He is also survived by his five children, Christine “Tina” Adams, Elizabeth (Robert Thorpe) Adams, Katharine (Louie Farkas) Adams, Robert “Bobby” Adams III, and Joseph “Joey” Adams; grandchildren, Richard (“Rickie”) S. Diaz, Joseph (“Joey”) Sutherland, Katharine “Katie” Adams, and Isabelle Adams; great-grandson, Anthony Sutherland; stepchildren, Tammy and James Du; sister-in-law, Linin “Grace” Xiong; cousins, Louis Friend and Robert Benjamin; and former wife, Marta Jensen.

He was preceded in death by his wives, Martha and Gerrie Adams, and by his grandson, Robert J. “Robbie” Diaz.

A Memorial visitation will be from 10:00 a.m. until the time of mass on Saturday, July 12 at St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church, 4220 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, IL 60618. Visitation will be Friday from 4:00 p.m. until the time of service at 7:00 p.m. at Burnett-Dane Funeral Home, 120 W. Park Ave. (Rte. 176 one block west of Milwaukee Ave.) Libertyville, IL 60048.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American

Cancer Society.

For more information, please call (847) 362-3009 or share a memory or condolence at www.burnettdane.com.

His legacy lives on in the many lives he touched—through the law, through friendship, and most deeply, through family.

Previous Events

Visitation Celebration

JUL 11. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Burnett-Dane Funeral Home
120 West Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847) 362-3009

Celebration of Life

JUL 11. 7:00 PM (CT)

Burnett-Dane Funeral Home
120 West Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847) 362-3009

Tribute Wall

BP

“ I have had the privilege of working for and with Bob. We have very different personalities and when I first went to work for him, I was skeptical that this would last long term. I think he was skeptical too, as my previous legal experience had been with a law firm that he did not think much of. That was during the Reagan administration, so I guess we got used to each other, each of us annoying the crap out of each other on many an occasion notwithstanding. The thing about Bob was that beneath a sometimes gruff (abrupt? direct? fill in the blank) exterior, he was a very kind person with a big heart. He could be generous to a fault, and he never looked for anything in return. I enjoyed the time I spent with him, both in and out of the office. I will miss the lunches that we had, whether with others or just the two of us. He was a very important person in my life for many years, and I will miss him.

Brian

Brian C. Pedersen - July 08, 2025 at 04:21 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Adams Jr..



July 07, 2025 at 02:46 PM

AA

“ There are so many memories I have with Bob. Most of them involved him “schooling” me in court when I was a young lawyer. But, through the years, I began to know the man. He embodied all the excellent qualities in a lawyer: expertise, zealous advocacy, and impeccable ethics. It made him an effective attorney and a great person.

I feel lucky to have known him. He challenged me every day and made me a better advocate. He was loved and will be missed.

Amy A

Amy Aronson - July 01, 2025 at 08:15 PM



*A brief time knowing Ms Adam's I send my condolences to his family, I pray that God's loving arms comforts them through this time of sorrow. Thanks you my Adam for being my lawyer in my time of hardship (2001).
Kimberly G*

Kimberly Glenn - July 12, 2025 at 10:16 AM

CP

“ Chris Pierce planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Adams Jr..

Chris Pierce - June 27, 2025 at 11:45 AM

CP

“ Chris Pierce purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert Adams Jr..



Chris Pierce - June 27, 2025 at 11:45 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert Adams Jr..

June 26, 2025 at 10:45 PM



“ Peace and love to you

Tara - June 26, 2025 at 10:43 PM

GM

“ There was one day, about 50 years ago, when Bob Adams decided to buy a house, two doors down from where I lived on Albany Street in Chicago. I didn't know it then, but that day was one of the most important days of my life. His decision brought me the best friend of my life (Tina) and a lifelong membership in the Adams family as Bob's 'daughter from another'. Bob was a constant and continued presence for me, from my adolescent years to the present day. Bob was there for every disaster and every celebration in my life, and I had the privilege of celebrating the milestones of his life with him and his family as well.

I am sure everyone who knew him will remember his sharp wit, his brilliant mind and his caring spirit. But I, for one, have been particularly blessed with having lived under the umbrella of his love. I could always count on him to give me a hug and smile. He welcomed me into his family and became part of mine. It is my great honor that he considered me as one of his daughters, and I am so grateful for a lifetime of shared experiences, holidays, celebrations, tragedies and meaningful conversations which will remain in my heart forever.

My heart breaks for the entire family, as our ordinary lives must continue without his bright light. In these days of great grief, may there be some comfort in being blessed with so many wonderful memories of this awesome human being.

*With my deep love and great affection,
Gayle*

Gayle Miller - June 25, 2025 at 01:51 PM

GM

“ 10 files added to the album *Memories of Bob*



Gayle M - June 25, 2025 at 09:53 AM

GM

“ Gayle M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Adams Jr..

Gayle M. - June 25, 2025 at 09:12 AM

TF

“ The Agnew Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Robert Adams Jr..



The Agnew Family - June 24, 2025 at 05:19 PM

TF

“ The Agnew Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Adams Jr..

The Agnew Family - June 24, 2025 at 05:19 PM

RD

“ Rich Diaz planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Adams Jr..

Rich Diaz - June 24, 2025 at 08:37 AM

RD

“ Rich Diaz purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Robert Adams Jr..



Rich Diaz - June 24, 2025 at 08:37 AM

“ Tribute to Robert J. Adams

My dad's life was shaped by challenges, not the least of which was me. Born while he served in the Air Force, I was just a baby when tragedy struck. At 21, we were involved in a car accident that claimed my mom's life, leaving him to raise me alone. He showed resilience, even at such a young age, and continued on with strength and perseverance.

After being Honorably Discharged from the Air Force, my dad returned to Chicago, where he found comfort in the care of his parents. He remarried Gerri, and together they had two daughters, Lisa and Katharine. Gerri raised me as one of her own, and with her, my dad rebuilt his life.

Dad went on to work at an insurance company, quickly rising to Vice President, while attending night school at Northwestern University Law. In 1976, he earned his law degree and opened his own practice, Robert J. Adams & Associates, which focuses on helping those in financial distress through bankruptcy law. Today, that practice continues through me, one of his last words he said to me was "You are now the Bill Slayer".

Though his marriage to Gerri ended, and he faced more relationships, he never gave up on finding love. He married Marta, with whom he had two sons, Robert and Joseph. Marta and my dad remained close to the end. Later, he found lasting love with LiQun "Linda," who was with him to the end, offering unwavering support.

Dad loved his unconventional family deeply. He embraced us all, in our uniqueness and imperfections, with a heart full of acceptance and affection. He always wanted me to become an attorney and work alongside him. I began as a paralegal, then managing the team, and now I carry on his legacy as the attorney and owner of Robert J. Adams & Associates. Working with him was one of the greatest privileges of my life.

He was the first to see both of my sons when they were born and was a devoted grandfather until the very end. He was devastated when Robbie passed away in 2023, but remained a vibrant grandfather to Rickie and my nephew Joey, and my nieces Katharine and Isabelle He was a proud great-grandfather to Anthony, a joy that brightened his later years.

In March of this year, he met his cousin Louis Friend and his children for the first time, overjoyed to welcome them into the family—a moment that brought him immense happiness.

A lifelong proud liberal and Democrat, my dad stood firm in his beliefs and his commitment to justice and equality. He believed in standing up for the underdog and fighting for those without a voice. His values shaped both his personal and professional life, leaving a lasting imprint on everyone who knew him.

Dad was deeply grateful for the GI Bill, which provided him with access to education—a privilege he never took for granted. He often said he would not have become the educated man he was without it. His education opened doors for him and allowed him to help countless others.

My father's legacy is not just in his professional achievements, but in the way he lived his life—overcoming obstacles with determination, making lasting impacts on those around him, and being a loving father, husband, and friend. He was a dedicated mentor, an advocate for those in need, and an inspiration to all who had the privilege of knowing him. His vidoes can be seen on Tic-Tox, and they show how fun he was.

Daddy you are the love of my life. Love you forever. Tina

Tina Adams - June 23, 2025 at 04:54 PM

RK

I made a contribution to the American Cancer Society in his name. He was fun to hang out with. Great conversationalist! I will miss him, especially on Wednesdays.

Ross Kooperman

Ross Kooperman - June 26, 2025 at 09:59 AM

JB

Bob was my bother-in-law who was married to his first wife, Martha. I was only a teenager living in VA when they were married and moved to the Phoenix area. Martha loved him very much and you could see it in her eyes and everything she did. She was also proud of him serving in the USAF, as we all were. I know she would have been proud of him now. After she died at 21, I didn't really get to know Bob and what I did know came from Christine (Tina) who was also very proud of him and loved him very much. Over the years, we saw each other infrequently. But when we did get together, I saw the love he had for his family. He demonstrated kindness, thoughtfulness, and a keen intellect. I didn't have the chance to know him well, but I can see how much he meant to those who loved him. I know his passing is a huge loss. Tina, Rickie, and Joey, my deepest sympathies to you and all of the Adams family. May God give you peace. Love you, Uncle Jim

James Burdick - June 26, 2025 at 12:31 PM

CA

Comments from Robert's clients:

Hello Tina,

They say life is fatal disease...

Please except my condolences. I'm really sorry that you have to go through hard times now. Stay strong.

Arturas

adriana I

My deepest condolencest ...

I was so sorry to hear about your recent loss we grieve with you during this impossibly hard time. Admon June,27,2025

Tasha

I'm so sorry for your loss

Pleshette

I'm so sorry to hear this. My heartfelt condolences to the entire Adams family

Sexysanoone Sano

God bless him he helped me out very much

I am so sorry for your loss. Robert J Adams personally helped me with my case. He was so 'as a matter of fact' with a straight face. He said, 'you will get rid of your car and get another one, along with other 'you will do this, you will do that.'

I will never forget him. Prayers of peace, comfort and strength are on their way up for all of you.

Thank you,

Christine

Vera

My deepest sympathy to the family and friends.

Irsha

Sorry for the loss, I give my condolences to a wonderful man I had yet to meet
Kevin

Just wanted to say I'm sorry for your loss.

Felicia

Sincere condolences.

Jacqueline

Omg im sorry to hear this

Tenisha

Praying for the family his was really good man

Christine Adams - June 27, 2025 at 10:39 PM

MR

I was lucky to call Bob a friend during my years living in Chicago, and his passing leaves a real void for all of us who had the joy of knowing him. Bob had a unique presence - a razor-sharp wit paired with a truly generous spirit. He made you laugh, he made you think, and he made you feel welcome, always. Time spent with Bob was never dull.

One of my favorite things about Bob was how devoted he was to the people in his life. The legendary "Romeo Lunches" he had with his lifelong friends every Wednesday were a perfect example of his loyalty and sense of tradition. He loved those get-togethers - not just for the food, but for the camaraderie, the storytelling, and the joy of being with people who had walked through decades of life with him. That kind of friendship is rare and beautiful, and Bob cherished it deeply.

His deep pride in his family, his passion for the law, and his role as a mentor and advocate to so many let us all see how much he cared - about justice, about people, about doing what was right. Even in casual moments, Bob's heart was full and his mind was always working.

I'll miss his clever observations, his laugh, and his ability to turn even a quick visit into something meaningful. The world lost a truly special man. Rest in peace, Bob. Thank you for the memories.

*Marcia Reece
Scottsdale, AZ*

Marcia Reece - July 30, 2025 at 03:44 PM