



## Robert Vance Sweet

February 28, 1941 - January 7, 2016

Robert Vance Sweet passed away peacefully at home January 7, 2016. A memorial/celebration of his life will be held at 4:00 p.m., Sunday, January 17, 2016 at the Plumber's Union Local 8 hall (lower level), 8600 Hillcrest Road, Kansas City, Missouri. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that participants bring food to share with those gathered.

Robert Sweet was born February 28, 1941, in St. Louis, Missouri, to Edward Arthur and Jessie Margaret (Vance) Sweet. He grew up in Webster Grove, Missouri, moving as a teen to Caldwell County, Missouri, and lived for several years in Mirabile, Missouri. He worked in heavy construction most of his life in and around the Kansas City area and was a member of the Teamster's Union. He later operated a small trucking and excavation business, Economy Trucking. As a young man, he traveled to Mexico, returning there every winter for several years, learning to speak fluent Spanish along the way.

He married Janet Suzanne Behrend on August 27, 1988, and they settled in Independence, Missouri with Jan's son, John Henry Muhrer. In 2002, Bob and Jan moved to Little Rock, Arkansas, and returned to Raytown in the summer of 2015 following Jan's retirement.

Bob was active in many peace and justice organizations, including the People's Energy Project, the Central American Solidarity Coalition, the

Committee against War and Imperialism, the Anti-Apartheid Network, the Leonard Peltier Support Committee, the American Friends Service Committee, and others.

Bob loved the outdoors, music, good food, travel and meeting the local people everywhere he went. He always wanted to hear their stories and would strike up a conversation with anyone. His travels took him to Nicaragua, Cuba, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Germany, and Honduras. In 1983, Bob ventured to the Lacandon jungle in Chiapas, Mexico, to investigate the forced removal of Guatemalan Indians from their land. He traveled for the second time to Nicaragua in 1984 with an international brigade in solidarity with the Sandinista revolution, staying there for several months working on a finca near the Costa Rican border. Most recently, he was an election observer for the elections in Honduras.

In the early 1990's Bob distributed the On Guard newspaper published by Citizen Soldier, a GI and veteran's rights advocacy group, to soldiers at Ft. Riley, Kansas. He made numerous late night trips to Junction City, Kansas, distributing the paper in the bars. He was eventually able to get newspaper boxes on the base.

One of Bob's projects was a campaign, in 1997, to get Western Auto stores to remove Confederate Flag truck decals from their shelves. The campaign was successful and he received an award from the American Friends Service Committee for his efforts.

Bob is survived by his wife, Janet Suzanne Behrend of Raytown, Missouri, his step-son, John Henry Muhrer, of St. Louis, Missouri, his sister Doris (Donald) DeZutter of Birmingham, Alabama, his niece, Margaret Ann (Pamela) Boozer-Strother of Washington, D.C. and their son, Kyle, his nephew David (Leslie) Boozer of St. Charles, Missouri and their three daughters, Lauren, Kaitlyn,

and Meghan. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Jessie Sweet and his dear friend, Jesus Carreno of Cameron, Missouri.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JAN 17. 4:00 PM (CT)

Plumbers Union Local 8 Hall  
8600 Hillcrest Road  
Kansas City, MO 64138

# Tribute Wall



“ *Judy Buckner Clause He was one in a million, mon amie! He used to make me laugh when he was on his cell phone all the time. Seemed so ironic! I loved the little bits of time I was able to spend with him this past couple of weeks.....watching him gobble up Judy Ancel's salmon snacks on New Year's Eve, me telling him I was going to comb his hair and give him a shave....although I'm not good with a razor. He just looked at me with those big eyes saying, "Uh...no." Our greatest sympathy to you, our good friend, for your loss. Our best wishes that Bob enjoys the journey to that part of the universe that hosts the best of the best. Love you both so much!*

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**Janet Behrend** - January 24, 2016 at 05:38 PM



“ *Katie Phelan Bob is one of the best human beings I have ever known. He will be a part of us always.*

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**Janet Behrend** - January 24, 2016 at 05:37 PM



“ *Tamara Severns Oh Jan, all my love and wishes for you both on your journeys, he will always be with you on yours. Never a sweeter man, with such loving eyes and that smile. I always had a smile on my face after I talked with Bob. I am so happy that he came to the concert a few weeks ago. If you need anything just call and we will be there. Sending you lots of love.*

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**Janet Behrend** - January 24, 2016 at 05:37 PM



“ *Diana Suckiel He was a sweet, sweet heart and a real good friend. Love you Jan. We will miss him so very much.*

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**Janet Behrend** - January 24, 2016 at 05:36 PM



“ Karen S. Wright Bob was always a gentle man and a gentleman. He had quite a journey and I'm glad you two had it together. He had a great smile and a great insight on the world. He will be missed alot.

Janet Behrend - January 24, 2016 at 05:36 PM



“ Bob Sweet crossed over early this morning with Jan by his side. He was an interesting, intelligent and loving guy. He will be missed by those who knew him best.....knew him for his politics and projects and his loving care of our good friend, Jan. Bob was a complicated man and at the same time, a simple guy with simple needs. The post of Che that greets you from their garage window gives anyone who goes there a taste of Bob's politics. He was the best. Best wishes on your journey, Bob. May it be sweet and peaceful and free of pain and anxiety. You have so much love surrounding your spirit! Fly free, sweet friend, fly free and easy! Love you! Judy Clause

Janet Behrend - January 24, 2016 at 05:35 PM



“ Sometimes we have the luck of meeting a shining star here on Earth. Now, your light shines down on us from the heavens above. You will always be loved.... Bricy Cortez

Janet Behrend - January 24, 2016 at 05:34 PM



“ Mike Sweet lit a candle in memory of Robert Vance Sweet



Mike Sweet - January 21, 2016 at 05:59 PM

LC

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



LaDonia Carlson-Greer - January 19, 2016 at 12:24 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of Robert Vance Sweet.



January 16, 2016 at 05:49 PM

BC

“ *Briseida Cortez* lit a candle in memory of Robert Vance Sweet



briseida cortez - January 16, 2016 at 04:01 PM



“ *Fruits and Blooms Basket* was purchased for the family of Robert Vance Sweet.



January 14, 2016 at 11:23 AM

DC

“ *Bob was always a welcome person to talk with when I was at music jams or gatherings. He enjoyed reading and often had a book in case things got slow. But he was always ready to talk. I already miss him at such gatherings. It is good to just see his smile here on the web page. He always had a ready smile.*

*Don Carlson*

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**Don Carlson** - January 14, 2016 at 12:05 AM