



Robert D. Ward

May 31, 1933 - January 18, 2026

Pastor Robert D. “Bob” Ward of Tustin passed away Sunday, January 18, 2026 at Curry House Assisted Living in Cadillac. He was 92. Bob was born May 31, 1933 in Buckland, Massachusetts to Nelson Erwin and Blanche Eliza (Wilder) Ward and they preceded him in death.

Bob served honorably in the United States Air Force for four years, during which he time he was deployed to Korea. Bob graduated seminary from what is now known as Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids. He pastored Snow Bible Church in Kent City, Dover Baptist Church in Bristol, retiring from First Baptist Church in Tustin. After retiring from the ministry Bob worked as a rural mail carrier for several years.

He was very musically gifted; Bob had the ability to play numerous instruments, play music by ear and sight read a piece of music immediately. Being from the East Coast, he was a loyal Red Sox fan. He enjoyed woodworking, golf, snowmobiling and was an avid reader.

On June 9, 1956 at the Dover Baptist Church he married Alice Gribbell and she survives him along with their children: Dan (Nishi) Ward of Cadillac, Dick (Jacquelyn) Ward of Sparta, Elizabeth Welch of Nashville, Michigan; 12 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents Bob was preceded in death by his siblings: Beverly, Russell, Alma, Don, Dick, and Ruth Ann.

Funeral services will be 11:00 AM, Friday, January 23, 2026 at Dover Baptist Church in Bristol. Friends may meet the family Thursday from 5:00 to 7:00 PM Thursday at Peterson Funeral and Cremation Services in Cadillac. Burial will take place at Burdell Township Cemetery in Tustin.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Munson Hospice of Cadillac or Dover Baptist Church. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN 23. 11:00 AM.

Dover Baptist Church

Tribute Wall

MR

“ Melody R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert D. Ward.

Melody R. - January 20 at 09:45 AM