

**From:** "Vance, Jim (NBCUniversal)"  
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**To:** "@NBC Uni WRC Newsroom"  
**Subject:** bob long

One day a while ago, a guy who used to work here chose to celebrate yet another winning/dominant may book in a note to the staff with the life cycle of the mayfly as metaphor. It was sparkling prose, ending, as did all the former and later such notes, with an invitation to chadwicks, or clydes or matisse or wherever, to raise a drink to our success as our competition "drowned in their own hot tears of despair".

On another occasion, he likened our victory to hannibal's crossing of the alps in his campaign against the romans.

Who writes stuff like that at the end of a book!!?? For those of us fortunate to have worked for him, the answer is, of course, bob long.

There is no one who knew him, who doesn't have a bob long story to tell. For his part, bob had a thousand of his own, which he was happy to share with anyone who would listen. And who wouldn't listen? The stories were fantastic, so much so that bob ryan and others are still trying to figure out which mite be true.

Such pondering is now moot. After a long and valiant struggle, bob lay down his sword today. But if there's anybody whose spirit will never die, it surely is him.

Some of us are going to carry on that spirit this evening, in a way which surely would please bob. We're going to raise a drink or three in celebration of a life well lived, and in gratitude that at some point, we were blessed to share the same space, breathe the same air, laugh, cuss, and maybe even tell a lie or two (maybe not) with bob long.

We're gonna do it at one of his favorite spots, matisse, on Wisconsin...7:15