

Robert Dale Matulka



Robert Dale “Bob” Matulka USN CDR (Ret.) of Arlington, died Monday, August 7, 2017, at his residence.

Bob is survived by his devoted wife, Darlene (Gehler Lebedev) Matulka; his son, Michael Joseph Matulka and former daughter-in-law Edith (DeYoung) Matulka; his daughter, Meghan Anne Matulka and daughter-in-law Lori Dale Nicely; his grandsons, Patrick Robert Matulka and Alec James Matulka; his granddaughter, Marie Dale Matulka-Nicely, his sister Elizabeth Ann (Matulka) Scott (Darrell Scott), his nephews Gabriel William Scott and Aaron Joseph Scott, niece Rachel Elizabeth (Scott) Rodriguez, and his aunt Verna (Leischner) Pettibon.

Born at home in Chinook, MT, he was the son of the late Joseph John and Agnes Caroline (Leischner) Matulka. Bob spent his childhood around his father's machine shop and later drove tractor on the family wheat farm.

Upon graduation from the United States Naval Academy in 1960, Bob married his beloved wife, Mary Kathleen "Kay" (Thompson) Matulka. They had two children, Michael and Meghan.

Bob earned his wings as a carrier pilot, flying an A4D Skyhawk off of the USS Midway in Vietnam 1963-1965. He earned a Ph.D in aerospace engineering and space physics in 1970 at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. A 20 year career in the Navy and then in the private sector involved work on satellites, computer hardware research, and space application projects.

Michael gave Bob and Kay two grandsons, Patrick and Alec, and Meghan gave them a granddaughter Marie. Kay passed away in 2007. Bob found love again and married his wife Darlene.

He will be remembered as kind, hardworking, and giving with a wry sense of humor. He will sorely be missed by his family and countless friends.

MURPHY FUNERAL HOME