

Robert Dale Matulka



Commander Robert D. Matulka, USN (Ret.), passed away on 7 August 2017 at his home in Arlington, VA, after a battle with cancer.

“Bob” was born in Chinook, MT, on 2 September 1937 to Joseph and Agnes Matulka. After graduating from the United States Naval Academy with the Class of 1960, he married Mary Kathleen “Kay” Thompson.

Bob earned his Wings as an attack pilot in Vietnam, flying an A-4D Skyhawk off MIDWAY (1963-1965). He was accepted to graduate school and received a PhD in aerospace engineering and space physics at the Naval

Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, in 1970. Following graduation, Bob worked for the Office of Naval Research. He loved the Navy.

Retiring from the Navy in 1980, he went to the private sector working on satellites, computer hardware research and space applications projects.

Bob was a man of faith, integrity, honor and high standards. He had a way of making everyone feel a little better for knowing him.

Bob is survived by his wife, Darlene (Gehler Lebedev) Matulka; two children, Michael and Meghan (and her wife, Lori); three grandchildren, Patrick, Alec and Marie; and his sister, Elizabeth (Matulka) Scott (and her husband, Darrell). He was predeceased by his wife, Kay.

Darlene Matulka

January-February 2018 Shipmate