

October 17, 2025

Fellow GFLs,

I'd rather be writing to you with some happier news, but for those of you that haven't heard yet, my uncle, Robert Yelton (Maj., Ret), passed away on Friday October 10, 2025 in Grants Pass, OR. He was 88 yrs old. He had been in memory care for about the last 18 months. Pam and Shauna were with him when he passed.

Bob flew the T-33, F-102 and F-106. My one regret is that he retired about six months before I got back from F-106 school, so I never did get to fly with him, although I do owe Bob a great deal of gratitude as he was instrumental in getting me to join the unit, which provided me with a roadway to a wonderfully rewarding career in the Guard and at American Airlines.

He always had a multitude of Air Guard flying stories to tell. The ones I remember, I'd love to pass on at the next reunion.

Kindest regards, and stay healthy and safe,  
Aileron

October 11, 2025

Ron-I was sure sorry to hear of Bob's passing. He had many friends and I am happy to say how fortunate I was to have had his friendship for so many years. I will also not forgot his kindness in making sure Carolyn and I and sons had a place in his apartment to live while we were in the process of moving from Fresno to Clovis. I will forever keep all of the great memories of the times I had with that good man. RIP Bob-Paul

October 17, 2025

Hello Ron,

Your uncle Bob was a cool dude! I got to fly with him quite a few times in the F-102 and the 6. I could save this story for the reunion, but I'd rather share now. I was pretty fresh in the unit in the F102 and we had someone, Harbison I think, graduating from UPT at Randolph AFB. So Bob put together a 3 ship to go down there and celebrate the graduation, and do some serious drinking. Sorry, I can't recall who the other guy was, but I was definitely #3. So, we blast out of Fresno and shortly after passing Vegas, we are descending out of 180, cancelling IFR and heading for the Grand Canyon. At the time there was talk in the FAA of minimum altitudes, but they hadn't taken effect yet. So down we went, rooting around below the rim everywhere Bob felt like going. Quite a sight seeing trip as he called out popular sites and locations. We had quite a night at the bar, and our graduate of honor was nowhere to be found. (Now I'm sure it was Harbison, who bailed out of the ANG as soon as he got a job with the airlines.) And, as you might guess, everyone on the base was aware of our departure the next day, including our Wing Commander.

Rest in Peace, Yelts

Stinky

October 17, 2025

Ron sounds like a great guy to have as an Uncle.

Doc Carveth

October 17, 2025

So sorry for your loss, Aileron! Godspeed Bob, Clear skies, calm winds on your flight west.

Shredder

Ray "Shredder" Lynott

October 17, 2025

Sorry to hear about your Uncle Bob. I don't think I ever met him, but he sure looks happy in that picture with the T-bird!

Peewee

October 17, 2025

Hey Ron

Thanks for the update. I had heard the news from QB's, then talked to PC for more details. I enjoyed Bob's unique perspective on life and golf for many years during our annual Willard Peacock "tournament", and then later with the 4 days of golf in St. George Utah orchestrated by Mike Finch. He was so proud of Shauna, and I was so proud of him and Pam for adopting her and giving her a life that she wouldn't have had otherwise.

See you in February!

Nibes

October 17, 2025

Ron,

Condolences and all that, I hope you will toast him at the GFL reunion this Feb. As most of us would like to be remembered passing through!

Bob (Mulch)

October 17, 2025

Dude-

Sincere condolences. I remember seeing pictures of him and hearing a little about "Uncle Bob" from you. Obviously, a big gut punch after his significant role in your life.

RIP Uncle Bob!

Wishing you guys well!

JT

October 17, 2025

I don't recall meeting Bob, but he sounds like a Guard legend. I wish him fair winds and smooth skies, and a man hug for you, Aileron.

Be well, my friend.

Gruve

October 17, 2025

Yelts,

I'm willing to wager that many, if not all of us, would've loved to have flown during his era. May he RIP.

V/R

Road Kill (Scottie Keller)

October 17, 2025

Ron,

Very sorry to hear of Bob's passing. He was a good man.

Condolences,

Baggy

October 17, 2025

Aileron,

My condolences 🙏  
Hawaiian

October 17, 2025

Sorry for your loss Ron. I look forward to hearing some of those stories at the next reunion.

W. Ray

October 17, 2025

Ron:

Very sorry to hear of Bob's passing. He was a very funny and fun loving guy and I'm sure I flew many 106 missions with him. Thanks for letting us know.

Mike Budd

October 17, 2025

Hey Aileron, sorry to hear about Bob. I only met him a handful of times, mostly when I was a newbie airman in the command post. I remember him as very nice and encouraging about wanting to be a pilot.

A nickel on the grass,

Lightning