



Frank Robert (Bob) Hervatine

1947-2018

Bob Hervatine finally found peace and rest, passing into the arms of the Lord on November 29, 2018, after over three months of hospitalization and medical procedures.

Born on April 22, 1947, the son of Frank A. and Irene F. Hervatine, formerly of Winter Haven, Florida, Bob followed in his father's footsteps and served his country in the U. S. Air Force. As a fighter pilot, he retired from both the United States Air Force and the California Air National Guard. After graduating from high school in Tampa, Florida where his father was stationed at MacDill AFB, he attended the University of Florida on ROTC scholarship, graduating with a commission in the United States Air Force. At the time, Bob was engaged to his college sweetheart, Nancy Slater, whom he married shortly thereafter.

Beginning his flying career, Bob completed USAF Undergraduate Pilot Training and was trained in the OV-10, a strike and forward air control aircraft. Bob flew tactical forward air control missions from Royal Thai Air Force Base Nakhom Phanom in Thailand and rotated through South Korea. He returned stateside and was assigned to Tyndall AFB, Panama City, Florida, and was subsequently assigned to Reykjavik Iceland, flying the T-33 on Arctic administrative and target sorties. From Reykjavik Bob was transferred to Minot AFB, North Dakota, and assigned flying duties in the F-106 air defense fighter interceptor. Upon separating from the Air Force in 1981, he and his then wife, Peggy, moved to Clovis, California, where he joined the 194th Fighter Interceptor Squadron of the California Air National Guard based in Fresno, California.

Bob's career as an aviator was challenging and rewarding. In the 194th, he flew the F-106, F-4, and subsequently the F-16 until retirement in 2002. During his time in Fresno, he was a Flight Examiner for the F-16, an Instructor Pilot, a Functional Test Flight Pilot and Training Officer. He flew drug interdiction missions in

Panama and South America and served in various command positions as an Operations Commander and manager. His duties always included five-minute armed alert, and he was directly involved in post 9/11 continental 24-hour air sovereignty operations. He was deployed to combat operations twice to Saudi Arabia, once prior to 9-11 and once after. As a civilian and part time Guardsman, Bob worked at the U.S. Naval Base at Lemoore, California, helping design and implement pilot training programs for the Navy F-18 program.

All during his lifetime, Bob was an active outdoorsman, beginning with sailing and surfing during his Florida youth. While stationed in North Dakota, he learned to snow ski, which became a lifetime passion, continuing on into heli-skiing with friends for many seasons in Canada, and becoming an active member of the National Ski Patrol at Sierra Summit Mountain Resort in Central California. Living in California, he was active in mountaineering, scuba diving, and skiing all over the world.

Bob was involved in the support of the large Fresno Men's Bible Study Fellowship class where he faithfully attended and provided encouragement and support for nearly 400 men. Shortly after retirement from the USAF and Air National Guard, Bob was widowed when his beloved wife of 23 years, Peggy, was taken in a tragic car accident. He later married Sandy on their beautiful terrace in Prather, CA in the foothills outside of Clovis. There he became even more active in ham radio as a DX operator and took up the sport of bicycling, riding as much as 10,000 miles in one year, doing some racing but mostly riding with groups of friends.

In addition to Peggy, Bob was preceded in death by both parents. He is survived by his wife of 14 years, Sandy (Kowallis) Hervatine, step-daughter Sherry Nolen and her husband Michael Nolen. This small family of three is grateful to all the doctors and

nurses of City of Hope Hospital and Clovis Community Hospital, as well as dear friends Dr. William Carveth and Dr. Sandeep Sekhon, both of Fresno, who provided heroic measures and untiring loving care to help Bob in his unexpected and arduous fight for life. The family appreciates all the many guardsmen, cyclists, radio friends, ski friends, and others who offered prayers and support.

A Celebration of Life service on Friday, January 11, 2019, at the Fresno Air National Guard Base will be followed at a later date with military honors and interment at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.