

Frank Robert Hervatine

Obituary



Bob Hervatine passed peacefully into the arms of the Lord on November 29, 2018, after over three months of hospitalization and medical procedures. He will be remembered as a Fighter Pilot, avid outdoorsman, bicyclist, and Ham radio operator, and most of all as a devoted husband and trusted friend. Born 71 years ago 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 joined the U. S. Air Force. As a fighter pilot, he was active duty Air Force and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the California Air National Guard with nearly 33 years of total service. After graduating from high school in Tampa, Florida, he attended the University of Florida on an ROTC scholarship, graduating with a commission in the United States Air Force. During his flying career, Bob completed USAF Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus AFB, Mississippi, and was then assigned to Tyndall AFB in Panama City, Florida, then Keflavik, Iceland, Royal Thai AFB in Nakhon Phanom in Thailand, Osan AB in South Korea, back to Tyndall, then Minot AFB, North Dakota. After 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. Before becoming a full-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. Throughout his flying career, Bob flew the T-33, the F-102, the OV-10, F-106 Delta Dart, the F4C/D, the F-16ADF, and the F-16C/D. In the 194th, Bob, better known as "Grinder" by his squadron mates, was a Flight Examiner, an Instructor Pilot, a Functional Test Flight Pilot and Training Officer. He served in various command positions as an Operations Commander and Manager, and he was directly involved in post 9/11 24-hour air sovereignty operations. Bob deployed twice to fly combat missions over Iraq and was the Detachment Commander on one of those deployments. 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. Bob was always an active outdoorsman, from sailing and surfing in his youth to snow skiing, heli-skiing with friends for many seasons in Canada, an active member of the National Ski Patrol at Sierra Summit Mountain Resort in Central California, and skiing in North and South America. He also enjoyed mountaineering in North and South America, hiking, and scuba diving in many parts of the world. In retirement, he became even more active in ham radio as a DX operator and contester, reaching 339 of 342 designated countries. An avid cyclist, Bob rode as much as 10,000 miles in one year. Bob was preceded in death by Peggy and both of his parents. He is survived by his loving wife of 14 years, Sandy (Kowallis) Hervatine, step-daughter Sherry Nolen and her husband Michael Nolen. This small family of three thanks 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 untiring compassion and support during heroic measures to help Bob in his unexpected and arduous fight for life. Celebration of Life services are planned for January 11, 2019, 1:00 p.m. at the Fresno Air National Guard Base. Friends wishing to attend should email Sherry Nolen at sherryknolen@gmail.com for an invitation and base instructions. Interment will occur at Arlington National Cemetery, date to be determined.