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George Robert "Bob" Merrill

Jan. 21, 1949 - Jan. 31, 2023

George Robert “Bob” Merrill, a.k.a. Bullet Bob,75, of Morganton, NC, departed this life and joined his parents on January 31, 2023. After a period of declining health, Bob passed peacefully in his home surrounded by his wife, family members, and countless friends.

Born January 21st, 1948 in Lakeland, Florida, he was the son of the late George and Janice Merrill.

Bob is survived by his wife of 51 years, Susan Wacaster Merrill; brother and sister-in-law, Mark and Loreli Merrill; sister-in-law, Debbie Grigg (Don), and their cherished daughter, Sandi; brother-in-law, Ted Wacaster (Nolita), and numerous nieces and nephews.

Bob was a Political Science graduate of Mars Hill College and earned his Master of Arts Degree from Appalachian State University. After working 31 years with the NC

Department of Corrections, he retired in 2004 as the Assistant Superintendent II. His most honored accolade was receiving The Order of The Long Leaf Pine Award upon retirement.

Bob was a modest man; however, he was also extremely intelligent in an array of topics and trades. He was the family's Trivia champion, mechanic, carpenter, gardener, engineer, and card shark to name a few. He was a licensed pilot who could be seen flying a plane over Lake James in the 90's.

Although he was reserved and often mistaken as timid, Bob was quite the adventurist. He was a certified scuba diver and dove in some of the most desired waters. He was an avid motorcyclist and rode all over the US with his friends. He appreciated traveling in a not-so-touristy fashion. He and his wife, along with friends, ventured to many parts of the world soaking up the culture, the land and the people.

Close to home, he enjoyed going to his family's mountain cabin that has been in his family for generations. With the hiking, fishing, nature, and animals that came with the surroundings of the cabin it was obviously one of his 'happy places'.

His love for animals was ever apparent in the number of pets he had over the years. He also enjoyed feeding his neighborhood 'pets' which were deer that frequented his yard for daily feedings.

Bob was a member of St. Mary's and St. Stephens Episcopal Church. His huge smile, unforgettable laugh and gentle generous soul will forever be missed and we are all better for having known him.

The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m., Saturday, February 4, 2023 at St. Mary’s & St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church. The memorial service will follow at 2 p.m. in the church with The Revs. Logan Lovelace and Larry Britt officiating.

Tribute Wall

Bob was my summer roommate at Mars Hill College in 1968. He became a wonderful friend for the summer. I have thought about him often through the years and finally figured out today how to contact him, only to learn he had passed. I was glad to read about his life and it sounds like he was the same good friend to others as he was to me in 1968. I only regret due to graduation from Mars Hill in 1969, the military, and the Christian ministry as a pastor and Army chaplain, I always lived away from North Carolina and did not know how to contact him.

–Tommy Vann

Susan, we are sorry to hear of your loss. Please know you and your family are and will be in our thoughts and prayers. May God give you strength and courage each and every day.

–Susie/Wayne Burns

I have known Bob for many years as a friend and co-worker while working with the Department of Corrections (High Rise). Bob's quite manner and welcoming smile will be missed. To Susan, my prayers are with you during this time. God bless you! Chris

–Christine P Davis

Susan,condolences for you and your family for your loss.

—Charles Fisher

—Janet Lingafelt

—Karen Samulak

You are in my thoughts and prayers….peace and comfort be with you and your dear family all the days ahead….in His love Elvy

—Elvy Bryan

Dear Susan, We are so saddened to hear of Bob’s passing. May the God of comfort and peace be with you and the family during these difficult days. Love, Helen and Ronny

—Helen and Ronny

Sending love and prayers to Susan and family. Rita Harris, Ponte Vedra, Florida

—Rita Harris

We are very sad to hear of Bob's passing. Bob always had a sweet expresssion when he taked. We will miss his since of humor and his addictive smile . May he rest in peace till we all are together again when the roll is call up yonder. We will see you again dear friend. Sunny & Lee

—Sunny & Lee Denton

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We are so glad that we had the chance to meet Bob. Sorry we didn't have a chance to know him better. Now Bob has peace and you have wonderful

memories. We love you and will be praying for strength for you. Jim and Margie Bain

Bob, our NC friend, we have missed you and all the fun we had together but we know where you are and we will see you again Susan, wish we could be with you on Saturday but know we are there in spirit. Peace & love , Bob & Diane TN

—Diane Cannoles

Heaven gains a good soul, Rest In Peace Bobby. He was a great neighbor and friend. You will be missed.

—Tommy Petes



Susan, We are so sorry for the loss of Bob. We are praying and asking God to let you find peace and comfort during this difficult time. We also ask Him to give you "that peace which passes all understanding" for all your days. As a neighbor, we are always here for you. We send you our love, Ed and Melissa

—Edward J & Melissa G Cavallone

Susan, So very sorry to hear of the death of your husband. May you find comfort and peace in all the life adventures you shared. Susan King

—Susan Irvin King

—Ruth and Tom Mennitt

Susan, so sorry for your loss. Have many fond memories playing golf with Bob. He was one of the best. Praying.

–Jim Belote