



Col. Robert Myron Davis USAF (Ret.)

May 15, 1941 - October 21, 2021

Robert (Bob) Myron Davis 80, of Springfield, VA, formerly of Columbia, SD, died October 21, 2021 from complications of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Bob is survived by his son, Michael Davis, daughter Catherine Shannon Murray, grandchildren Erin, Ryan, and Kate Murray, sister Carol Axtman, brother Keith Davis, brothers-in-law Seb Axtman, Tom and Sean Murnane and sisters-in-law Fionnuala Murnane and Eileen Connally of Ireland, nieces and nephews in the United States and Ireland, and special friend Mary Mendel of Lewistown, MT. He was preceded in death by his parents Irene and George Davis, his wives Rhea Dennert and Kathleen Murnane.

Robert Davis grew up in Columbia, South Dakota. He never forgot his roots. He enjoyed a carefree childhood of sports and hard work. Bob excelled in that small community setting records in football and basketball. His team, the Columbia Comets, played as the No. 1 ranked team in the SD "B Classic" state tournament his senior year of 1959.

After graduation from the University of South Dakota with a degree in business in 1963 and subject to the draft, Bob enlisted in the US Air Force in 1964. Shortly before he was commissioned a 2nd Lt., he married his high school sweetheart and USD graduate Rhea Dennert on August 9, 1964. Tragically, Rhea passed away due to a childhood heart condition September 13, 1965.

Lt. Davis was reassigned to Dreux AFB, France in 1966 where he oversaw the closure of that base, before his transfer to Athens, Greece. Upon his departure from Europe, he met Kathleen Murnane of Ireland, a nurse at St. Thomas hospital in London. They married in Minot, ND September 7, 1969, where they had 2 children, Michael Joseph and Catherine Shannon. Kathy died in 2007 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Bob's military career encompassed Strategic Air & Missile Commands at air bases in Minot, ND, Ellsworth, SD, and Whiteman, MO, and two assignments at the Pentagon, Washington, DC. His 2nd stint at the Pentagon was managing foreign military sales in 17 countries and traveling extensively in the Middle East. He achieved the rank of Colonel and completed his career at the Defense Nuclear Agency in Alexandria, VA. Bob retired in 1990 and worked another 20 years for SAIC (Science Applications International Corporation) as a Dept of Defense contractor. He retired in 2010.

Bob loved God and lived his Catholic faith, rarely missing daily mass. He and his wife Kathy were involved in many activities at Nativity Catholic Church, serving as eucharistic ministers, establishing the St. Patrick's party, Our Lady of Knock Society, fundraising and supporting the Nativity School with a scholarship in Kathy's name. Bob was a proud member of the Knights of Columbus, and served a term as Grand Knight. Bob and Kathy were also proud of developing the Irish Project Children in their area and fostering children for six weeks in the summer during "The Troubles" in the 1990's.

Bob and Kathy took pride in their home and garden and enjoyed hosting parties. They will long be remembered in their church and neighborhood. They often visited Kathy's immediate family in New York and in Ireland where Bob explored his Irish heritage and reunited with the Galway Davis's. After Kathy's death Bob continued their family traditions. He was a No. 1 grandfather

attending most all of his grandchildren's sporting events and celebrations and was always there to help his children, grandchildren, neighbors, friends and the Knights. He was an avid bridge player, black diamond skier and a pro-golf wannabe.

In retirement Bob became a frequent traveler after reconnecting with Mary, an old friend, he first met in Dreux, France. They enjoyed skiing many western and eastern resorts. Bob often golfed on their coast-to-coast trips. They traveled Ireland, England, Italy and enjoyed Caribbean and Mediterranean cruises.

Relatives and friends may call at the Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, VA, 22315, on Sunday, June 12, 2022 from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Nativity Catholic Church, 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, VA, 22015 at 10:30 a.m., on Monday, June 13, 2022. Interment following at 3PM to his final resting place at Arlington National Cemetery where he will be received with full military honors. Flowers graciously accepted or memorials may be made to the Kathy Davis Scholarship Fund at Nativity Catholic Church School, 6398 Nativity Lane, Burke, VA 22015 or the Davis Family Scholarship Fund, Oahe Foundation, Box 998, Pierre, SD 57501. Please view and sign the family guestbook at www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com

Previous Events

Viewing

JUN **12.** 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22315
(703) 971-7400
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

Viewing

JUN **12.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22315
(703) 971-7400
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN **13.** 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

Nativity Catholic Church
6400 Nativity Lane
Burke, VA

Graveside Service

JUN 13. 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Arlington National Cemetery
1 Memorial Drive
Arlington, VA 22211

Tribute Wall



“ *Col. Robert Myron Davis USAF (Ret.)*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *Bob was my neighbor in Columbia. A year older than I. We went to see them at Rapid City, when he was stationed there. Being in the service is a whole different world then we are used to. We forget how much of their life they give to keep us free. When we arrived Bob picked me up and swung me around and said, "You do not know how much this visit means to me". Miss you Bob, Carol (Krage) Reed*

CAROL REED - October 03, 2022 at 06:20 PM



“ *I have many fond memories of my Uncle Bob! When they lived in Rapid City, SD- It felt like we practically grew up with Shannon and Mike. We spent many holidays going back and forth between Uncle Bob and Aunt Kathy's house and our home, in Pierre, SD. Plus, we always alternated two weeks out of every summer either at their home or ours. Then the big move to Virginia happened!! I remember it well. It was a tough move! We no longer spent holidays together. But, we continued on with our tradition of going back and forth, now flying, of course, every summer for two weeks, between homes and had an absolute blast! I will always remember My Uncle Bob for his white hair, of course, his voice of reason, great advice, and always his welcoming arms!! I will miss him always!! God Bless you, Uncle Bob!! Special prayers and hugs to my Mom, Carol, my cousins, Shannon and Mike and everyone else affected by his death. Alec and Erin thank you so much for being there to represent our family in my absence! Love to all of you!!*

Susan Axtman-Selnes - June 13, 2022 at 10:36 AM

SA

“ Uncle Bob was always checking in with us and our kids, and would pop into a soccer match sideline when we played in Virginia. We loved our Thanksgiving celebrations with him and the Davis family, too. We love him and will miss him and send our prayers to Shannon, Mike, Erin, Ryan, and Kate.
Love Greg, Sarah, August, John, and Eric

Sarah Axtman - June 13, 2022 at 08:10 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Col. Robert Myron Davis USAF (Ret.).



June 11, 2022 at 02:49 PM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Col. Robert Myron Davis USAF (Ret.).



June 11, 2022 at 02:13 PM

MM

“ Have great memories of Bob and Aunt Kathleen when they visited Ireland and when we came to live in the US. He was always a gentleman, had an amazing life and loved his family. Will be missed by many.
Rest in Peace.
Mike, Rene & Courtney Murnane

Mike, Rene & Courtney Murnane - June 11, 2022 at 12:09 PM

TM

“ REMEMBER THE GREAT TIMES BOB AND CATHY SPENT IN BALLYNORIG COUNTY KERRY IRELAND WILL NEVER FORGET A GENTELMAN; NO EASY WAY TO SAY GOOD BYE WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN DEEPEST SYMPATHY TOM MURNANE AND FAMILY

THOMAS MURNANE - June 11, 2022 at 11:44 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Col. Robert Myron Davis USAF (Ret.).



June 10, 2022 at 10:10 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Col. Robert Myron Davis USAF (Ret.).



June 10, 2022 at 09:53 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Col. Robert Myron Davis USAF (Ret.).



June 10, 2022 at 05:00 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Col. Robert Myron Davis USAF (Ret.).*



June 10, 2022 at 04:53 PM



“ *I have fond memories of Bobby Davis marrying my Aunt Rhea. Sadly, their 13-month marriage was cut short due to Aunt Rhea's death. I was 8 years old, but remember the sadness of my mother Doris, losing her younger sister. Family cherished his visits to South Dakota, and he made sure everyone knew how much he loved us all. I will remember him for his love of family and country.*

Yvonne Larson Abeln - June 10, 2022 at 07:07 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Col. Robert Myron Davis USAF (Ret.).*



June 09, 2022 at 11:24 PM

MB

“ I met Bob when he and my cousin, Mary visited me on their trip to the Seattle area. He had that Irish charm and wit that is so engaging. They invited me to visit them in Virginia and gave me a fabulous guided tour of Washington, D.C. They also hosted me in Bob's lovely home with generosity and kindness.

I treasure the memories of those visits and the loving friendship of he and Mary.

With sincere sympathy,

Marjorie Bombar

Marjorie Bombar - June 08, 2022 at 02:47 PM



“ Bob is greatly missed here in Central Montana. Especially his charm, verve, and wit. Somehow he became "one of us". What a pleasure it was to call him our friend!
Greg & Frank

Gregory Clark - June 07, 2022 at 02:25 PM

MC

“ Blanche and I send sympathy to the family. We met Bob through his friendship with Mary, our dear friend. Bob's friendship and generosity were without bounds as he was our host twice in Virginia.
Mike & Blanche Chapman

Michael Chapman - June 06, 2022 at 05:53 PM

MM

“ *Mary Mendel purchased the Rose Tribute for the family of Col. Robert Myron Davis USAF (Ret.).*



Mary Mendel - June 04, 2022 at 11:32 PM

MK

“ *Mendel family, Martin, Ed, Floss, Kathy purchased the Sunny Memories for the family of Col. Robert Myron Davis USAF (Ret.).*



Mendel family, Martin, Ed, Floss, Kathy - June 04, 2022 at 11:19 PM

DH

“ *My sympathy to your family. Was Bob in the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity while at USD? If so we were frat brothers. Dr. Rollie Hohwieler from Fountain Hills, AZ.*

Dr Rollie Hohwieler - June 04, 2022 at 09:32 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Col. Robert Myron Davis USAF (Ret.).*



June 02, 2022 at 09:16 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Col. Robert Myron Davis USAF (Ret.).



June 01, 2022 at 02:12 PM



“ Cory, Ania, Noah and Maia Cress purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Col. Robert Myron Davis USAF (Ret.).



Cory, Ania, Noah and Maia Cress - June 01, 2022 at 11:17 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Carol Davis Axtman - May 31, 2022 at 09:35 PM



“ Carol and Seb Axtman Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Col. Robert Myron Davis USAF (Ret.).



Carol and Seb Axtman Family - May 31, 2022 at 09:27 PM

MB

“ *Bob will be missed by all of those whose lives he touched day today or on rare occasions. He had a good sense of humor and a great deal of honor. And he will be remembered as a faithful Catholic, a good husband and father, I trusted and dear friend and a kind and compassionate person. Thank you for every single sweet thing that you did to brighten my life. You will never be forgotten.*

Marianne Bradshaw-Bruce - May 31, 2022 at 07:35 PM