



Robert Nies Rhodes

February 17, 1934 - September 10, 2016

Robert “Bob” Rhodes, age 82, passed away on September 10, 2016 surrounded by love, in Atlanta, GA, after a prolonged illness. He was born on February 17, 1934 in Salamanca, New York as the only child of John Hadley Rhodes and Clara Nies, and graduated from Salamanca High School in 1951.

Bob Rhodes was remembered by all who knew him as ‘always having an amazing smile’ and positive attitude, which he continued to present to the world around him until just a few days before his passing. Bob attended Syracuse University under ROTC, and then began his career with the United States Air Force officer as a jet pilot. He was member of a squadron that flew F86 Fighter jets, in missions and as trainer in the 1960’s, including stations in Texas, and for a year in Saudi Arabia. Followed by a station at Andrews AFB outside of Washington D.C. during John Kennedy’s presidency, and being stationed in England for three years, he moved on to a tour in Vietnam, and to fly large transport airplanes like the C-130 and C-5 out of McGuire AFB in New Jersey. The last years of his career were as a motivational speaker for the United States Air Force, before he retired in the late 70’s. Always known for his enthusiasm, Bob took on a second career as an entrepreneur, including sales of Holiday Magic cosmetics, Space Age printing services, and in Real Estate, first as a salesman and later as a broker, establishing Rhodes Realty in Willingboro, NJ. After retiring again, Bob continued to stay active in the local community. He met Barbara Kelly of Syracuse in 1955 when attending Syracuse University where he was a member of the Alpha Chi Ro fraternity. They married in 1956 and together they went on to raise five children through an exciting life of travel and friendship, both in and out of military service. Some of his favorite memories stemmed from being stationed in England, where he and his wife met many people and traveled with friends throughout the British Isles and Europe.

Back in the US, as a member of his NJ local community, he served as a volunteer, with the Elks Club as an officer, and as President and public-speaking award winner with Toastmasters International. He and Barbara became quite active in Marriage Encounter as presenters and in supporting the movement through their community church in Willingboro, New Jersey. The two also conducted weekend sessions for Mind Dynamics, along with being avid supporters of Norman Vincent Peale, and Reverend Robert Schuller,

the Hour of Power and construction of the Crystal Cathedral in Orange County, California. Bob was a committed golfer, continuing to play into his 70's, and followed sports as an alumni of SU. Bob and Barbara moved to Deptford/Woodbury, NJ in full retirement. A person who loved people and the outdoors, Bob Rhodes enjoyed little more than spending time walking the woods and near the water wherever he went, as well as joining in on happy gatherings and making memories with friends, extended family and his children and grandchildren throughout his life.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hadley and Clara Nies Rhodes, and his cherished wife, Barbara in 2008, after 52 years of marriage. Bob is survived by his children; Diana (Rhodes) Cook (Stephen) of Phoenix, NY, Paula Rhodes of Atlanta, GA, Michael N. Rhodes (Dawn Rosario), Westville, NJ, Scott Rhodes, and Danielle Rhodes of Lumberton, New Jersey, along with the grandchildren he deeply loved - Amber Cook, Brittany Cook, Josie Cook, and Chad Cook; Rushton Rhodes and Gavin Rhodes; and Jonathan Hewett (Christa) of Mobile, AL; as well as two great-grandchildren Anya and Skylar Hewett.

Relatives and friends are invited to a visitation on Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 10am to 11am in The Chapel at BOUCHER FUNERAL HOME, 1757 Delsea Drive, Deptford, NJ 08096.

Memorial Service 11am in The Chapel at the funeral home.

Interment with full Military Honors at Gloucester County Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Williamstown, NJ to immediately follow.

The Rhodes family would like to express their gratitude for the community of friends and family who provided personal support in his final years and the support of devoted caregivers and medical providers who helped sustain a desired quality of life through his last days.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be directed to the Deborah Hospital Foundation, Browns Mills, NJ (<https://www.deborahfoundation.org/donate>) or the charity of one's choice.

For directions, to sign online guest book at to view Bob's Video Tribute visit www.boucherfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Nies Rhodes*

November 27, 2022 at 03:45 PM

JB

“ *We met Bob and Barbara through the Bianco's in the late 80's We had many memorable times and Bob was the life of the party, what a personality. We have so many great memories and pictures of the wonderful times we had together. Bob is upstairs with Barbara having a good laugh.*

Jim Brown - October 01, 2016 at 09:13 AM

EM

“ *Sending our thoughts and deepest sympathy to Diana and all the family. He must have been an amazing man and very loved!*

eleanor mahaney - September 28, 2016 at 03:13 PM

SJ

“ *Our deepest sympathies on the loss of your dad, Diana. May the memories you hold near and dear sustain you during this difficult time. God bless.*

Sharon Jemola - September 28, 2016 at 09:28 AM

CW

“ *Sending love to all of Bob's family, he was a cherished friend of my father Charles "Chiz" Wolfe and our family just loved him too. His smile and sense of humor were the best! What a wonderful man he was and I am so grateful for having known him.*

Carla Wolfe - September 26, 2016 at 12:44 PM

MW

“ *Bob Rhodes was the kindest man we knew. He always had a great smile. We will miss him every day.*

Mark Wood and Leslie Wood - September 25, 2016 at 12:41 PM

JO

“ I would like to express my deepest sympathies to the Rhoades family for their loss. I will always remember Bob as a kind and generous gentlemen. Always a pleasure to talk with him and Barbara when they brought their vehicles to my shop and when I visited their home. May you rest in peace my friend and may God bless you and Barbara.

Joe O'Brien - September 25, 2016 at 11:47 AM

ES

“ One of the happiest moments in my life was when my brother-in-law Bob Rhodes enter it. He brought a great deal of happiness to us all with his comic behavior, everlasting smile, and goodwill and most of all his love of family. May Bob rest in peace an award he truly earned and deserves. Uncle Ed

Ed Scarpelli - September 24, 2016 at 11:29 PM

DC

“ Always smiling! Love you Dad!

Diana Rhodes Cook - September 24, 2016 at 09:48 PM