



## Robert Harold Carlson

June 2, 1941 - October 22, 2023

Robert Harold Carlson (82) died on October 22, 2023 with family by his side after a battle with cancer. Bob was born on June 2, 1941 to Harold and Dorothy (Holst) Carlson in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. Growing up in Detroit Lakes, Bob and his older brother Dave were on the water and golfed all summer.

After high school, Bob joined the class of 1964 at West Point Military Academy. After graduation Bob completed Airborne and Ranger Schools. He was deployed to Germany before Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Air Medal, finishing his service as a captain.

The summer before Bob was to leave for Vietnam from Germany, he met Joan who was visiting from Scotland. Over the next year, Bob and Joan exchanged letters and were married in Edinburgh, Scotland on December 10, 1969.

After the Army, Bob joined IBM in Topeka, Kansas. In 1972, while in Topeka, their son Aaron was born. In 1973 they moved to Philadelphia where Bob attended Wharton School of Business, earning his MBA. Upon graduation they moved back to Minnesota and welcomed their second child, Tessa, in 1975.

The family moved to Bloomington, Minnesota where Bob coached his kids' youth sports teams and loved watching them play through college. He was always quick to help the refs with pointing out a 3 second or traveling violation. In 2002 Bob and Joan moved to St. Paul.

Bob's career was led by his strong ethics. In 2002, as co-CEO of Reell

Precision Manufacturing, the company was awarded the Minnesota Business Ethics Award. Bob retired in 2006 and shifted his focus to sailing on the St. Croix and Lake Superior, golf, the annual family vacation to Arcadia Lodge, travel, and grandkids sporting events.

Bob's gracious and generous nature made him special to many. He was deeply loved and is missed by those he left behind; his wife of 53 years, Joan, and children Aaron (Julia) Carlson, Tessa (Brad) King, grandchildren Catherine Carlson, Robert Carlson, Daniel King, and Eleanor King, many nieces and nephews, and extended family. Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Dorothy, and brother Dave.

A Memorial Service will be held on Thursday, November 9 at 11:00 a.m. at Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel, Historic Fort Snelling, Hwy. 5 & 55, St. Paul, MN 55111. Internment at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 9, 2023, Assembly lane #6, at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

A Celebration of Life reception will follow at Plank Museum and Visitor Center, Historic Fort Snelling, 200 Tower Ave., St. Paul, MN 55111, from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Memorials in honor of Bob can be made to Disabled American Veterans ([www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)).

# Tribute Wall

EG

“ My condolences are given. What an admirable life Bob had - an inspiration to many. May his spirit continue to live on through his beautiful family & those that knew him. May he find peace now with his brother, Dave, my grandfather, sailing those clouds. I will see them together in sunsets.



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**Emilie Goblisch** - November 09, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ We are so very sorry for the loss of Bob. He was an integral part of our family and will be missed dearly. What an amazing and admirable life he lived and I know he is now with his brother (my grandpa) Dave, his mother Dorothy, and his father Harold, sailing together peacefully.



*Sending our love.*

*The Ziermans*

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**Adrienne Zierman and family** - November 09, 2023 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Bob, was a friend from about 8 years of age. His father purchased a fuel truck from my father, and Bob and I rode to Duluth, with our fathers to pick it up, as trucks came by ship in the early 50's. Bob's father taught me, and other B-day friends, to water ski. Ask me about a duck hunting experience, some day. 952-474-0876 Dave Milbrath, and I visited Bob a few years ago, and chatted about old days.

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**lawrence d schram** - October 30, 2023 at 12:00 AM

CE

“ *Bob and I maintained a long friendship . He was my prom date at Detroit Lakes High School. Brilliant, handsome, athletic and kind are only a few adjectives to describe him . I will miss him. My sympathies to Joan and his kids and Grandchildren. Corky.*



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**Corky Hartman Einzig** - October 29, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ *Sorry to hear Bob's death. Remember him as a great member if the Class of '59.*

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**Andy Lia** - October 29, 2023 at 12:00 AM