



## Robert Jay Williams

June 18, 1945 - May 14, 2024

Robert Jay Williams, Commander, United States Navy (Ret.), June 18, 1945 - May 14, 2024, peacefully passed away at the age of 79, surrounded by his loving family. He is survived by his devoted wife of 34 years, Dr. Leslie Swartz-Williams; his cherished children, Robert Williams (Shawn Snider), Kristen Bretzius, and Andrew "AJ" Williams (Melanie Verburg-Williams); along with four beautiful grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert John and Jeanette (née Sichertman) Williams; and his siblings, Lynn (née Williams) Hercko (John Hercko) and James Williams (Mary Williams).

Affectionately known as "The Boss," Bob lived a life of unwavering service and dedication. Graduating from Alfred University in New York, Bob joined the United States Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NROTC) and served as a reservist before transitioning to active duty, where he served for 22 years (1968-1989). His naval career included 12 tours, notably a historic voyage on the first operational deployment of the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower. Bob's commitment to duty earned him an array of decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal for exceptional service. Bob's contributions also earned him the Navy Unit Commendation and the Meritorious Unit Commendation. His outstanding performance was recognized with the Navy Achievement Medal and the prestigious Battle "E" Ribbon. He demonstrated bravery and commitment through his service, earning decorations such as the

Navy Expeditionary Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. His dedication to duty was further acknowledged with the National Defense Medal and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Additionally, his commitment to excellence was honored with the Armed Services Reserve Medal. Bob's service also included overseas deployments, recognized with the Korean Expeditionary Medal, and extensive sea duty, earning the Sea Service Ribbon. Following his military service, Bob worked with several defense contractors, including Delphin and Raytheon, as well as telecommunications work with private medical practices before retiring.

Beyond his distinguished military career, Bob was a man of simple pleasures who found immense joy in the company of his family and friends. Whether gathered around the dinner table enjoying a meal prepared by his beloved wife or savoring the flavors of his favorite restaurants and rounds of golf, Bob's infectious laughter and warm presence left an indelible mark on all who knew him. Bob's legacy of kindness, generosity, and love will endure in the hearts of many.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, July 5, 2024 at 11 AM, with visitation beginning at 9:30 AM, at Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel, 1 Tower Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55450.

A committal service with military honors will take place at 1 PM at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to Second Harvest Heartland in Minneapolis in Bob's memory.

Though Bob may no longer walk among us, his memory will forever be cherished. May he rest in peace, his legacy honored and remembered. Fair winds and following seas.



# Cemetery Details

## Fort Snelling National Cemetery

7601 34th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55450

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 5. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel  
1 Tower Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55417

## Memorial Service

JUL 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel  
1 Tower Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55417

## Graveside Service

JUL 5. 1:00 PM - 1:15 PM (CT)

Fort Snelling National Cemetery  
7601 34th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55450



# Tribute Wall



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**NANCY CHENG** - July 03, 2024 at 10:56 AM



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**Melanie Verburg-Williams** - May 21, 2024 at 03:18 PM