



Robert E. Benjamin

December 31, 1931 - May 2, 2020

Salem – Robert Edouard Benjamin, 88, of Salem, former resident of Hampton, and prior longtime resident of Georgetown, MA, died peacefully on Saturday, May 2, 2020.

Robert (“Bob”) was born and raised in Woonsocket, RI, on December 31, 1931, eighth of eleven children, and youngest son of the late Joseph J. and Laura M. (Henault) Benjamin. He attended Holy Family Grammar School and began his secondary education at Mount St. Charles Academy before transferring for a year to the Seminaries of Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Bucksport, ME. He returned to Mt. St. Charles to complete high school with the class of 1950.

In 1951, Bob enlisted in the United States Air Force, and served five years stateside during the Korean War as a radar specialist. After the war, he transferred to Pease Air Force Base in Portsmouth where he met Jeanne Miville of Manchester at a USO dance. They married in 1954, and celebrated 62 years together, until Jeanne’s passing in 2017.

Before leaving the Air Force in 1956, Bob began studies in Engineering at the University of New Hampshire. He then moved to Dorchester, MA to attend the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology in Boston, where he received an Associate Degree in Electrical Engineering. He later furthered his education at Northeastern University’s evening college and earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering in 1966.

In 1959, Bob moved his growing family to Georgetown, MA to begin his career at Western Electric’s Bell Laboratories, where in 1962, he helped develop NASA’s communications satellite Telstar, allowing for the first live broadcast of television images between the US and Europe. Bob rode the wave of phone company diversifications and retired from AT&T Long Lines in 1981. He continued as a consultant into 1984, finally ending his career after 25 years.

Bob enjoyed being active for many years. He played on Bell Lab’s bowling, baseball, and soccer teams. Later, he avidly traveled the east coast each summer with camping trailer,

cribbage board, and family in tow. Bob was a member of the Georgetown Jaycees, and was active in St. Mary's Parish, participating in the choir, Men's Club, as a Eucharistic Minister, and was a past Grand Knight in the Knights of Columbus. In 2012, Bob and Jeanne settled in, with a long-awaited move to their much loved Hampton "Beach House".

Bob was predeceased by his wife, Jeanne; his daughter Michelle Sinclair; and his 10 siblings, Edward, Ovila, and George Benjamin, Lillian Ward, Doris Galipeau, Irene Dagasse, Edith Lambert, Lucille Nadeau, Suzanne Sarazin, and Paulette Allen-Duarte.

Bob will be missed by his children, Valerie Johnson and her husband Peter of Lexington, MA, Robert Benjamin and his wife Kelly of Windham, NH, and Jacqueline Downing and her husband Michael of Center Barnstead, NH; his grandchildren, Brienne Leary and her husband Sean, Alise Williams and her husband Andrew, Laura Gendreau and her husband Steve, Cory Downing, and Brytni and Alexis Benjamin; his great-grandson, Gavin Leary; and his many cousins, nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be private. A memorial service will be held at a later date at the Veteran's cemetery in Boscawen. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, 289 Lafayette Rd., Hampton, NH 03842. Please revisit tribute page for announcement of memorial service date and time.

Comments



“ Dear Bapa-

As we prepare to lay you at peace in your final resting place today, I wanted to share some of the most touching memories of you and Gavin. I am so grateful that you were able to meet your first great-grandchild while still here on earth. I hope that Gavin will now have two more angels watching over him from above as you are reunited with Grandma. Thank you for the memories you helped us make on holidays at Georgetown and during summers at the beach. You always kept us laughing with your stories and made my husband Sean feel so welcome to the family by exchanging telecom trade secrets!

May you find only peace and love now-

Love,

Your oldest and first grandchild, Brienne



Brienne (Johnson) Leary - June 05, 2020 at 10:13 AM



“ If you click one of the photos- you will see them all!

Brienne (Johnson) Leary - June 05, 2020 at 10:14 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ronald Benjamin - May 25, 2020 at 02:04 PM



“ To Valerie, Jackie and Robert Jr.,

We have great memories visiting your Dad & Mom at the beach.

We didn't realize making memories photos, we we're just having a great time listening to uncle Bob's jokes and famous stories.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Ronnie & Pauline Benjamin

Ronald Benjamin - May 25, 2020 at 02:39 PM



“ I always looked forward to visiting Uncle Bob. We may not have seen him often enough, but I always enjoyed his stories and the wisdom he shared. We had great times and lots of laughs.

Paul Benjamin - May 10, 2020 at 03:31 PM



“ My daughters, Liz, Becca, Rachel and Deborah and I have been reminiscing this evening about visits to the beach house when they were children. Thank you Uncle Bobby for the fond memories. 🙏

Susan Ward - May 09, 2020 at 08:54 PM



“ To Bob, Kelly and Family, my deepest condolences to you and your family at this most difficult times.

Judy Sullivan - May 07, 2020 at 07:24 PM



“ To Laura Gendreau, Valerie, Jackie and Robert Jr. and your families, I send my heartfelt condolences on the loss of you dad and grandfather. May you all find the peace through your grief. Cheryl Henderson Hill

Cheryl Henderson Hill - May 07, 2020 at 06:01 PM



“ Sorry to hear of Mr. B's passing. He was surely the recipient of very loving children. My thoughts are with you Val, Robbie and Jaqui, love and light, Cindy Perkins



Cindy Perkins - May 07, 2020 at 05:47 PM



“ He is now at peace and with his wife watching over all of you. God bless.

Theresa & Dennis - May 07, 2020 at 12:21 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers to the Benjamin family.



Gina - May 07, 2020 at 09:50 AM