



Robert E. Leary

April 9, 2026

Hampton, NH - Robert E. Leary, 93, former longtime resident of Portsmouth, passed away peacefully on April 9th at 6:30 pm.

Robert (Bob) was born in 1933 in Manchester, NH. He married his beloved wife, Claire S. Leary, and they were married for 68 and a half years. They moved to Portsmouth in 1966 and resided in Elwyn Park for 56 years.

Bob leaves behind his wife, Claire, four daughters, 12 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren:

Janet & Greg Michaels and daughter, Miranda Michaels; Sue and Louie Dow and daughter, Rachelle Merrill & husband, Kevin Merrill and their children, Jaxson, McKenzie and Brielle Merrill, Tyler Dow and wife, Nicole and their daughter, Harper Rose Dow; Diane Withee and children, Michaela Withee, Morgan and husband, Dean Hartnett and Robert Withee; Karen & Dan Coffey and children, Brianna and husband, Jonathan Lindsay, Braden Coffey, Myah Coffey, Caleb Coffey, Jacob Coffey and Joel Coffey.

We honor Bob's dedication to serve his country with distinction in the U.S. Air Force as well as the U. S. National Guard as Flight Chief Master Sergeant. He enjoyed a 40 year career.

Bob signed onto the Air National Guard in 1949. He was activated as an Air Force mechanic during the Korean War for 20 months. After the war ended in

the mid 50's he continued as a mechanic for three years. While in this role, his initiative and hard-working spirit was noticed and he was sent all over the country to military flight schools.

In 1959, Bob was promoted to a position in quality control. Bob went up to three stripes and made Master Sergeant in the 70s. He was named Flight Chief Master Sergeant of Quality Control in '79 and retired a decade later from his 40-year career.

In his prime years, Bob loved to bowl with work friends, golf, ski, travel, play whist, and visit with neighbors. He and his wife were members of Saint James Catholic Church and Immaculate Conception Church, both in Portsmouth.

Bob was a dedicated husband and father, hardworking, and a faithful provider for his family.

Bob was well loved by his family, friends, and neighbors and will be greatly missed by many.

Services to be at a later date with dates and times to be announced on the funeral home website.

Tribute Wall

NE

“ *Salute & condolences from the family of CMS
David L Eaton ...*



Nancy Eaton - April 13 at 11:55 AM

RB

“ *Diane and Family, So very sorry for your loss, sincere condolences,
Ron and Debbie Buccini*

Ronald G Buccini - April 13 at 11:35 AM

DB

“ *I am sorry for your loss. I can remember joining my husband at the
bowling lanes and the tournaments, having so much fun with Bob.
He was a wonderful soul and a great friend to all. He has joined Ken
and I pray they reunite in heaven. My thoughts and prayers are with
you and your family during this time.*

Doris Brock - April 13 at 07:29 AM

CS

*So sorry for your loss. Bob was a great person to work with in
maintenance. He was so knowledgeable and always willing to share it
with everyone.
A true gentleman.*

Carl Sneirson - April 13 at 08:26 PM

PO

“ *The Pease ANGB military Retiree Activities Office (RAO) would like to offer our sincere condolences and our gratitude for CMSgt Robert Leary's service to our country in the United States Air Force and New Hampshire Air National Guard. If you would like help with any matters related to casualty assistance, Defense Finance & Accounting Service, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), Veterans Affairs (VA), etc. you can contact our office on Pease Air National Guard Base at 603-430-2636 or peaseangb.rao@gmail.com. The RAO is staffed by volunteers, all military retirees themselves, and our sole purpose is to provide assistance to any military retirees and surviving spouses/family members with anything related to their military service and/or benefits, in particular during difficult times such as this.*

We are deeply sorry for your loss.

*John W. Symington
CMSgt, USAF (Ret)
Director*

Pease ANGB Retiree Activities Office - April 13 at 07:17 AM

KG

“ *My dearest condolences to the entire Leary family. Bob was a wonderful person inside and out. I enjoyed every minute with Bob helping to care for him. He and his beautiful wife Claire will always be a class act in my heart forever.*

I'll never forget last Christmas '25 seeing the family gather around an acoustic guitar played by their grandson singing Christmas Carols. What a gift from God to hear a family sing together on such a blessed day!

Katrin L Grant - April 12 at 07:51 PM

LD

“ We have great memories of Diane’s dad coming to visit often in our neighborhood....he knew all the kids and neighbors and loved being involved in his grandchildren’s lives and part of the “hood”... Lynda, Mike and Hannah Dionne

Lynda Dionne - April 12 at 07:44 PM