



## Robert Thomas Bertrand

October 25, 1948 - December 21, 2020

Bertrand, Robert Thomas

October 25, 1948 – December 21, 2020

Bob Bertrand of Jupiter, Florida and Cape Cod, Massachusetts passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in Jupiter, Florida. Growing up in Islip, New York, Bob always loved the ocean. He became a lifeguard at Robert Moses State Park, Long Island, NY in 1967. Bob spent many summers working at RM 2 where he made lifelong lifeguard friends. He was a natural athlete and loved soccer, surfing, tennis, golf and, of course, swimming. Bob became a pilot at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia in 1974. He then joined Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod where he flew the Convair F-106 until 1982. He was hired as an American Airlines pilot in 1978 and worked for them until his retirement in 2008. He was the Boston Safety Coordinator for the Allied Pilots Association (APA) – 1992 Bob was a member of APA National Safety Committee from 1993-1995. His primary duties required the handling of all air traffic control capacity initiatives in Washington D.C. and surrounding areas with members of the FAA and other users of the airspace system. Bob became a Boeing 757-767 L-Type check airman from 1997-2003 initially in New York and then in Boston. He returned to line flying on the Boeing 777 in Boston from 2004 until his retirement in 2008. After retirement, Bob founded his company, Safety4Clubs distributing and teaching the use of AED's and Lifesaving techniques. He also served as the New England regional president for USLA,

the United States Lifesaving Association , from 2010-2014. He was involved with various lifeguard operations on Cape Cod. While still being involved with his business, Safety4Clubs and USLA, Bob split his time between Cape Cod and Jupiter where he swam almost every day and golfed almost as frequently. He was a proud member of the Palm Beach Masters Swimming enjoying many friendships. Bob cherished his time and the friends that he made as a member of the Wianno Golf Club in Osterville, MA as well as the Riverbend Golf Club in Tequesta, FL. Bob was predeceased by his parents, William and Dorothy Bertrand of Islip, NY and Jupiter, FL. He is survived by his beloved wife, Leona, Beloved daughter, Rebecca and his forever playmate, granddaughter, Serena. Bob also leaves his sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and John Taylor, his sister Dorothy (Dee) Bertrand and her partner Ken Leggett, and his brother and sister-in-law, William and Mary Bertrand. Bob was generous, warm and welcoming to all that he met... and would be the first to include any newcomer into his group. He was extremely loyal and supportive to his friends and especially his family. Bob leaves many dear and special friends including school mates, pilots, swimmers, lifeguards, golfers and neighbors from both Cape Cod and Jupiter. He has gone too soon and will be greatly missed. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to USLA: The United States Lifesaving Association [USLA.ORG-Donate](http://USLA.ORG-Donate) "The USLA is America's nonprofit professional association of lifeguards and open water rescuers. The USLA works to reduce the incidence of death and injury in the aquatic environment through public education, national lifeguard standards, training programs, promotion of high levels of life guard readiness, and other means." A Celebration of Life event will be held at a later date.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Thomas Bertrand*

October 22, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *A fellow pilot. A true gentleman. A terrific Check Airman. And a real class act.  
You will be missed, Bob.*

**Max Drake** - March 18, 2021 at 10:56 PM



“ *I miss my brother...  
I really really miss him.....  
I loved him  
And  
He loved me....  
Love your Sister Dee*

**Dee Bertrand** - January 21, 2021 at 12:46 PM



*OMG, I just happened to Google Bobby and found this. My heart is so sad but what incredible memories of Islip and your family...Chip Rohrig*

**Chip Rohrig** - March 26, 2023 at 05:13 PM



“ *Bob was an awesome guy and as short of a time as I knew him, I could tell he had a kind heart. Always a pleasure running into him on the Cape. Last time I saw him we had a good chat at the Chinese food restaurant in Hyannis, if you can believe it. Very personable and always made great conversation. He will be missed.*

**Charlie Weinstock** - January 21, 2021 at 09:21 AM

BT

“ In addition to his always present sense of humor, he was kind and compassionate to people and animals alike. In fact, to our amazement and wonder, one of his last acts of kindness and appreciation was to buy pizza for the nurses in the cardiac ICU before being taken into surgery. We don't know how he was able to do this... but he did. I also witnessed him tell a horse that he didn't know in a field somewhere in our past that he loved him. If he had known that horse it would be completely understandable.... but they had just encountered one another. After we would speak on the phone when it was time to hang up he often concluded by saying....I love you. He was quick with wit and loving and kind. I miss my brother terribly.



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**Barbara Taylor** - January 14, 2021 at 06:10 PM

BH

“ Bob was a high school classmate and Vice-President of our senior class. He threw one of the best open house parties our senior year. An all-around athlete, he was the goalie of the soccer team and played both basketball and baseball. He stuck his tongue out for the baseball yearbook picture earning him the wrath of the high school teacher in charge of the yearbook. Instead of writing his name, he put "No Brains." Bob's sense of humor and great zest for adventures made him a lot of fun to be around. Leona and he sat at our table at our 50th Reunion in 2017. We'll miss him at class parties as he brightened up every room he was in. Bob Hutnick, Islip High School Class of '67 President

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**Bob Hutnick** - January 14, 2021 at 04:28 PM

SB

“ *Beyond sad to hear of Bob's passing. Though it's been many, many moons since we've seen each other, I believe connection made in late sixties remained. Godspeed.*



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**Sue Brown** - January 14, 2021 at 12:18 PM

BT

*Connection remained Sue. I was also a lifeguard with Bob at RM2. He and I have been friends since 67. We often talked about those days in the sixties. We both went on to flying careers but got to the beach often. I was body surfing with Bob last Halloween day at Jupiter Beach in Florida. Hope all is well. Bob will be missed.*

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**Bruce Thompson** - February 07, 2021 at 07:07 AM

SG

*He was the best man that ever was. Sorry I was too young to realize.*

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**Suzanne Gaugler** - June 15, 2021 at 07:16 PM

KK

“ We were new faces as we had recently joined Riverbend CC in Tequesta in winter of 2020. I vividly recall chipping some balls on our practice green, when Bob approached me for a fun chipping contest, where we would alternate spots to chip to declare a win. His outgoing spirit, contagious laugh and openness won me over, just as his obit shared. We got some rounds in together before we all headed north for summer. I was very much looking forward to coming back fall of 2020 to spend more time with him on and off the course. Bob was special. He will be missed by us all.

*Ken & Dyann Kotansky  
Riverbend CC  
Tequesta, FL*

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**Ken Kotansky** - January 14, 2021 at 11:51 AM

KC

“ *Kenneth C Cevoli lit a candle in memory of  
Robert Thomas Bertrand*



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**Kenneth C Cevoli** - January 13, 2021 at 09:35 PM

MP

“ *I didn't swim or golf with Bob, but Roger and I sure shared a lot of laughs with him and Leona. To say I miss him is an understatement. Love and good thoughts to Leona, Becca and Serena and the rest of his family.*

*Maureen Parsons*

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**Maureen Parsons** - January 13, 2021 at 07:16 PM

PB

“ I first met Bob in my early days as a flight engineer in Boston on the 727 in the late 80’s. We were both Cape Codders and he was welcoming and always helpful. I always enjoyed seeing him either at the “Y” where he was fondly known as “Bad” Bob due to his tenacity in the pool, or just around town. He was always a delight to converse with and catch up on flying the “line” at American Airlines. One of my favorite tennis stories which Bob shared with me was his playing with one of my 1970’s classmates at the University of Miami, who went on to become a professional tennis player named Eddie Dibbs, at the Willowbend Club. Bob of course was an outstanding player and thought playing a pro would be interesting, and it surely was, he said Eddie kicked his butt, but Bob enjoyed every minute of it. RIP Bob, and all our love going out to Leona, Rebecca, and his granddaughter Serena.

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**Phil Ballou** - January 13, 2021 at 10:27 AM

PW

“ One of the first to welcome me into the 101 FIS fighter squadron in 1977. He was a great mentor, fun to be around, and someone we will dearly miss. Godspeed Bob and our sincere condolences to your family! Paul & Janet

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**Paul Worcester** - January 13, 2021 at 08:25 AM

DS

“ Bob was a good friend and golfing buddy here at Riverbend Country Club. I golfed with him 2 or more times a week and we always had a putting contest before tee time. Each putt closest to the designated hole would win a penny. By season's end one or the other would maybe win or lose less than 25 cents.

Last year Bob and I were paired in the Riverbend Member/Member golf tournament. We finished second only a fraction of a point behind the first place finishers and split a substantial cash prize. We were scheduled to team up again this year.

All who golfed with Bob appreciated his pleasant, friendly, upbeat, jovial, supportive and positive demeanor. He was a welcomed addition to any foursome.

His passing left us all in shock. He will be dearly missed.

"Lefty" Dave Seibold

Riverbend Country Club

Tequesta, FL

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**Dave Seibold** - January 09, 2021 at 08:49 PM



“ I never saw Bob without a smile. I used to get on him about not wearing low cut socks for golf. He insisted on wearing ankle cut, basketball socks instead. I can see him today out there swinging his weighted swing trainer on the range before each round and then complaining about his back. He was very helpful in getting a heart attack protocol instituted at the golf course. He also brought in an expert to teach us how to do CPR. We sat around after golf this morning exchanging Bob Bertrand stories. We are all saddened by his loss and my condolences to all of his friends and family.

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**Larry Hooker** - January 09, 2021 at 07:28 PM

JW

*All of his Cape Cod Seniors Teammates at Wianno were shocked and dismayed at the news of Bob's sudden death. He was always so alive! Always a smile and always a great partner in those exciting matches! I was honored when he invited me to make a presentation on leadership at the Lifeguards' meeting a few years ago on the Cape. Mary and I just loved seeing him and Leona. We were really hit hard by his death - he will be sorely missed. Four of us just toasted him last Saturday evening in Hyannis.*

*He was happy, humble, and tough - a real guy!  
Jim Wilson , January 23, 2021*

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**Jim Wilson** - January 23, 2021 at 12:18 PM