



## Robert Sanders Melton

January 12, 1948 - October 13, 2019

Colonel Robert Sanders Melton, United States Marine Corps (Retired)

Robert S. Melton (Bob), 71, of Palm Beach Gardens, FL; Fairfax, VA; Cherry Point, NC; Bay Shore, NY, passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 13, 2019 after a brief battle with cancer.

Bob was born in Bay Shore, NY and attended Saint Patrick's School, followed by Malvern Preparatory School in Malvern, PA. Upon graduation from Villanova University in 1970, he was commissioned a Marine Corps Officer and became a naval aviator flying the A-6 Intruder. Col Melton's distinguished Marine Corps career included command of A-6 Squadron VMA (AW) 332, Base Commander of Marine Corp Air Station Iwakuni Japan, and duty with the Multi-National Peace Keeping Force in Beirut, Lebanon in 1983. Following a 30-year career in the Marine Corps, Bob became a 747 pilot with Atlas Air until retirement in 2012.

Inspired by his sea-loving Mother and a childhood on Long Island's Great South Bay, Bob was a passionate yachtsman and maritime enthusiast. Bob cherished his years cruising the East Coast with his wife, Betsy, and family aboard their vintage Rybovich, "SAM V."

Bob is mourned by a loving family including his wife of 50 years, Elizabeth

(Betsy); daughter Jennifer and husband Jeffrey Conklin and children Molly, Kate and Andrew of Richmond, VA; son Robert II and wife Laura and children Robert III and Maggie of Duxbury, MA. Bob was the son of Mary Ann and Andrew J. Melton Jr. He is also survived by 5 sisters and 2 brothers.

A mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, October 18th at 10:00 AM at St. Jude Catholic Church in Tequesta, FL, followed by military honors conducted by The United States Marine Corp. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation (<https://www.marineheritage.org>).

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

OCT **18**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Jude Catholic Church  
204 US Hwy. #1  
Tequesta, FL 33469

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Sanders Melton*

October 22, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *A great Marine friend and a great Atlas friend!! RIP...*

**Kenneth Starr** - October 20, 2019 at 04:16 PM



“ *A great Marine and aviator, so sorry to hear of Bob's loss! Prayers and condolences to the family is a very difficult time. Rest in peace Marine and thank you for all that you did for Marines and Corps. Semper Fi, Keith Stalder*

**Keith Stalder** - October 18, 2019 at 05:40 AM



“ *Another one our Intruder brothers departs the pattern too soon. Bob will be missed. Rest in peace Marine. Semper Fi, Dave Legas*

**Dave Legas** - October 17, 2019 at 11:40 PM

MD

“ Like Dan Moseler, I also served with Bob at HQMC in the Aviation Department back in the '80s. Bob was a stand up guy, thoroughly knowledgeable and professional, and simply great to work with. He was a team player, always willing to help in any task. He and Betsy were wonderful people, a kind and generous couple. Sadly, our paths never crossed after those intense days, except for a quick hello on a flight line or passageway somewhere. May he rest in peace.

*Mel DeMars*

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**Mel DeMars** - October 17, 2019 at 09:00 AM

DM

“ I have fond memories and was honored to serve with Bob at Headquarters Marine Corps in the mid-1980s. Rest in Peace.

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**Dan Moseler** - October 17, 2019 at 08:45 AM

JO

“ I am so sorry to hear this news. My condolences to all the family.

*Jim Otway*

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**Jim Otway** - October 16, 2019 at 09:49 PM