



Robert J. Flaherty

April 7, 1931 - February 8, 2020

Bob was born in Troy, NY on April 7, 1931 to John and Julia Flaherty. He attended LaSalle Institute and later served as a naval navigator and radio engineer in a land-based anti-submarine patrol squadron during the Korean War.

Bob graduated from Siena College in 1955 with a B.S. in Physics and a minor in Mathematics. He later earned an MBA from the University of Virginia.

Bob had a long and successful 37-year career with IBM as a product test engineer. During his career, Bob was one of the primary designers of the IBM 7030 Stretch Super-Computer and contributed to numerous patents and computer memory breakthroughs.

He worked in Fishkill, NY before transferring to North Carolina in 1976. He married his love, Jean Marie Deecher, in 1955. After leaving Pleasant Valley, NY, Bob and Jean settled in Cary, NC. where they shared 58 happy years together until Jean's passing in 2013.

Bob was a loving, supportive father to his six children and an adoring, generous grandfather to his nine grandchildren. He and Jean created a warm and inviting home where their family thrived and will continue to come together to celebrate life's milestones.

Bob was a very active member of Saint Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in Apex, NC. He served on the building committee as the new church was under construction. Bob brought comfort and happiness to church members while providing Eucharistic ministry services. He also performed his duties as the head usher during church services.

Bob broadened his commitment to community service by joining the Citizens Assisting Police (CAP) Team in Cary, NC. And he served as the CAP chief for many years.

Known for his jovial spirit, Bob was always quick with a joke, an infectious laugh and a warm embrace. He'll be remembered fondly for always having his camera at the ready and for the many photo albums he shared with family and friends.

Always supportive of his children's swimming ambitions, he spent many weekends officiating at swim meets and cheering for the RSA swimmers. A born tinkerer and handy man, Bob often would be found under the hood of a car or in his workroom rewiring hair dryers or repairing kitchen appliances.

Bob is survived by his children: Bob Jr. and wife Sarah, Mary Julia Heidepriem and husband Eric, Ann Marie Flaherty, Maureen Maughan and husband Kevin, Tim and wife Julia, and Kathleen Cardoso and husband Cid. Also surviving Bob are his nine grandchildren: Bridget Flaherty Shelton and husband Blake, Connor Flaherty, Leah Heidepriem, Amelia and Ava Maughan, Owen Flaherty and Alexa, Scott and Monica Cardoso. Bob has two surviving sisters, Marilyn Vansteenbure and Joan Blomstran and was preceded in death by his wife Jean, his parents and his younger brother Jack.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial donations to the Catholic

Charities of Raleigh, <https://www.catholiccharitiesraleigh.org/>

Cemetery Details

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church Columbarium

3008 Old Raleigh Rd
Apex, NC 27502

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 27. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

St. Andrew's Fellowship Hall
3008 Old Raleigh Rd
Apex, NC 27502

Eulogy

FEB 28. 10:45 AM (ET)

St Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church
3008 Old Raleigh Rd
Apex, NC 27502

Funeral Mass

FEB 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church Chapel
Apex, NC

Tribute Wall

MM

“ We first met Bob in 1985 as new members of St Andrew the Apostle while he was collecting pledges for the new parish, and I then worked with him a little bit at IBM. We stayed friendly throughout the years, and speaking with he and Jean at church was always a great pleasure. Both were some of the most genuine, honest and loving people we have ever known, and we respected and loved them both for their dedication to the Lord and our parish. After Jean passed, we didn't see Bob very much, but we always looked for him and were always lifted up by his happy disposition when we did get to have a few words. They were a loving and authentic couple who served others before themselves to the best of their ability, and we miss seeing and speaking to them. May all who love them find peace in the hope that they are together in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus for eternity.

One thing I do regret is that Bob never gave me one of those jars of St Andrew soil from his "stash" that Bill Seyler mentioned lol - I never thought to collect one for ourselves!!

Marie & Mike Mazanek

M&M Mazanek - February 29, 2020 at 02:00 PM

MH

“ We knew Bob as a one in a million neighbor, friendly husband, Father, and lover of his God. His service to his God and his church, and his family and friends was amazing. We were blessed to have known him and to have benefitted from his knowledge and care. He and Jean made a great pair. We were also blessed to know the six children from their long union.

Their St.Patty's parties, which features Irish stew and lot of food and fellowship, were outstanding fun. After Bob's retirement, I was thankful for his help at Swift Creek Elementary School working with small groups in the library to Introduce them to computers and search engines, and email.

Our deepest sympathy to family for your loss. May God surround youall with his abundant love and care.

Don and Mary Holloway

521 McKirkland Ct., Cary, NC 27511

Mary Holloway - February 23, 2020 at 03:51 PM

KB

“ Bob was a special gift to everyone who knew him. He always had a smile & funny comment to brighten your day. He gave of his time, talents & treasure to his family, church & friends. We will always remember the WONDERFUL St. Patrick's Day parties at their home. So much fun, love & warmth. What a beautiful family he & Jean had, they were a great team. We have so many good memories because of them.

We still have & treasure the photo album Bob made of pictures he took at our daughter's wedding.

Our deepest sorrow & prayers to to his family. My they find comfort in knowing he is with Jean & The Lord enjoying all the fruits of his good works here on earth. Eye has not seen...

Love & prayers,
Kathy & Jim Boyle

Kathy Boyle - February 19, 2020 at 10:19 AM

SK

“ I first met Bob when I was 8 or 9, that's when he started dating my sister Jean. Jean would have to take me along on their dates, much to Bob's disappointment. I use to watch him try to steal a kiss. My cousin & I hid in the back seat of their car when they left for their honeymoon. We waited about 30 min. before letting them know we were in the car. They had to turn around & drive us back to the reception. I never knew where I stood with Bob, but I knew he loved me.

I believe God put Bob in my life to give me a father figure & as a role model. He has played an intricate part in most of my life & that of my own family. He generously shared his zest for life & learning and combined it all with joy & laughter.

You have only to look at his children & grandchildren to see his legacy

God give his soul rest & may the angels lead him into paradise to reunite with Jean.

sister in law, Susan Kelly

Susan Kelly - February 13, 2020 at 08:28 PM

BS

“ Bob was a man of honor and commitment. When our church, St. Andrew the Apostle, began making plans for constructing our new facility, just prior to starting construction, a parish ground breaking ceremony was held. Bob was there with shovel in hand and hundreds of tiny jars, placing soil in the bottles and handing them out to the parishioners. Years later Bob would often provide a new parish member a bottle from his stash. Bob was always up beat and had a kind word for everyone. Bob will be greatly missed, but we all know that he is with Jean and they are once again reunited in heaven. Our condolences go out to his children and all the other family members. Losing a parent is always difficult no matter what one's age is. Our parents taught and instilled in us all the values that have made us who we are. God Bless!

Lynn & Bill Seyler

Bill Seyler - February 11, 2020 at 09:04 AM