



Robert Lee VanVranken

March 6, 1931 - January 6, 2011

Robert Lee VanVranken, age 79, passed away on Thursday morning, January 6, 2011 at the Parkview Healthcare Facility in Bolivar after a prolonged illness.

He was born March 6, 1931 in Pratt, Kansas to Orville Joel VanVranken and Margaret Mae (Shafer) VanVranken.

He was a graduate of Wichita High School East in 1949 and graduated from Wichita University in 1954 with a degree in Industrial Engineering.

He married Marjorie Perrine on August 2, 1953 in Wichita, KS.

After graduating from college, he entered the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers as a 2nd Lieutenant. Following basic training in Virginia, the couple moved to Bremerhaven, Germany where he was assigned to the Post Engineers. This was the beginning of 20 years of many adventures of living all over the world. He earned a degree in Civil Engineering from Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy at Rolla, MO in 1962 and then was sent to Viet Nam as an adviser to the Viet Nam Army. While in the Army he was stationed at Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Bremerhaven, Germany; Fort Lewis, Washington; Fort Knox, Kentucky; Vicenze, Italy; Fort Lee, Virginia; DaNang, Viet Nam; Korat, Thailand; Camp Zama, Japan; and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; where he retired with high honors from the Army in 1974, having earned the rank

Lieutenant Colonel.

Upon retiring, he took the position as Head of Environmental Services at St. Joseph Hospital in Omaha, NE. Later, he taught Civil Engineering Technology at Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, Iowa for 17 years. After retiring from teaching he sold Real Estate in Gretna, NE and then the couple moved to Bolivar in 1996. He was an active member of the Bolivar United Methodist Church, where he taught Bible studies and ran the sound system. He served in many capacities in the Show Me The Way Walk to Emmaus organization.

Bob loved fishing, bowling, pheasant hunting, competition level skeet shooting, telling stories about his life experiences and spending time with friends and family.

Bob is survived by his wife Marge, of the home; son David Lee VanVranken and his wife Tamara of Las Vegas, NV; daughter Karen McNickle and her husband Bob of Lehi, Utah; daughter Melinda Perrine-Obago and her husband Lester of Woodward, IA; son John VanVranken and his wife Pamela of Hutto, TX; son Mark VanVranken and his wife Miranda of Tulsa, OK. Bobs brother, Dr. A. E. VanVranken and his wife Carol-Jean of Alexandria, MN; sister Betty Jo Wenke of Derby, KS. 26 Grandchildren. 14 Great Grandchildren and 10 nieces and nephews.

A Visitation will be held at the Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar, Missouri on Sunday evening from 5:00-7:00pm.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 AM on Monday, January 10, 2011 at the Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar, Missouri with Rev. Dan Adkison officiating. Musical Selections will be No More Night sung by Lynn Penticuff with Carol Krueger playing the piano, To Where You Are by Josh Groben, and Amazing

Grace will be sung by the congregation. Burial will follow at Mt. Gilead Cemetery in Bolivar, Missouri under the care and direction of the Butler Funeral Home of Bolivar with full Military Honors provided by the United States Military Funeral Honors Team. Pallbearers will be Frank Artz, Kelly Baker, Gary Elliott, Bill Nickerson, Jackie Ray, Larry Tweed, Rex Warren and Jim Zaerr.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Bolivar United Methodist Church, 105 E. Division, Bolivar, Missouri 65613.

Friends and family may sign the guest book or send private condolences at www.butlerfuneralhome.com

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Lee VanVranken*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Robert Lee VanVranken*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *Marg-lots of great memories with Bob and Emmaus-Thinking about you and your family today!*

steve hughes - January 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Marge, I am truly sorry for your loss. I know you will miss Bob and you will be in my thoughts.*

Chris Ellis - January 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sorry to hear about Bob passing away. I know he is in a better place now. He is probably feeling sorry for us because our tour of duty is not over yet.*

Rod and Bev Oberle - January 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ *"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength " ISAIAH 40:31*

Our condolences to the family.

Shirley Van Vranken Milbert - January 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *Our deepest sympathy to all of the family. We are thinking and praying for you. Bob was a really special person...we will miss him. I especially remember his smile and his willingness to share his wisdom/teach at a moments notice.! Love and Hugs, Marilee, Phil, Lavonne, and the rest of the Arizona family.*

Marilee Muir and family - January 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

WH

“ *Marge
i am so sorry to learn of Bob's death. My heart goes out to you.
may God always be by your side to comfort you
My prayers and love are with you and family
I am with my daughter in Nv. so can't attend services but know that I
am thinking of you*

Willa Hines - January 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ *Dear Marge and family,*

I was saddened for your loss but rejoicing for Bob at his home-going. God's Word teaches us he's more alive now than he ever was - what glorious things he must be seeing. The most precious is being with Jesus.

Peggy Gilmore

Peggy Gilmore - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ *Marge*

We are praying for you and your family during this time. Bob was a great man of God. He will always be remembered.

The Ham Family

Eric Ham - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM