



Robert Rutherford

November 18, 1928 - August 13, 2012

Robert Ray Rutherford, age 83, died peacefully at home on August 13, 2012. Bob was born on November 18, 1928 in Walla Walla, Washington to Merrill and Gladys (McHargue) Rutherford. He graduated from high school in Enterprise, Oregon, received a BA in mathematics from Washington State University in 1951 and was commissioned in the United States Air Force the same day. He served in the Air Research and Development Command for five years. Through Operation Bootstrap he received his Masters degree in mathematics and physics from Boston University. In the Air Force he was instrumental in developing the first pilot ejection seats suitable for jet aircraft. He later pioneered many developments in the semiconductor industry and was known as the "zener diode czar". His long eventful career in semiconductors was spent mostly in Phoenix, much of it with Motorola. His last assignment was in sales as head of the General Motors account. He was predeceased by his parents, brother, Bruce, son, Douglas Bruce, and granddaughter Molly Elizabeth Austin. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Arda Aileen Sprague Rutherford, daughters Mary Joanne Austin and Julia Rae Van Arsdale, sons Robert Richard (Claudia), and Stephen Merrill (Susan), seven grandchildren, and one great granddaughter. Bob was an Eagle Scout, a Sunday school teacher at Church of the Beatitudes in Phoenix, former board member of Indian Arts and Crafts Association, Lion, and Advisory Board member of the Salvation Army. He loved camping with his family, taking his sons on Boy Scout camping trips, world travel, and visits to

artisans on the Hopi reservation. His family will miss his lovely smile, sense of humor and wisdom. Bob appreciated the care and comfort provided during his last difficult months by Good Samaritan Care Center, Good Samaritan Hospice, the Caring Presence and his loving family. The family suggests donations to Save the Children, Prescott Salvation Army or Prescott Valley Early Bird Lions Foundation at PO Box 25495, Prescott Valley, AZ 86312, or one's charity of choice in lieu of flowers. Service will be at 10am on Saturday, August 18, 2012 at Sunrise Funeral Home, 8167 E. Hwy 69, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314. His remains will be interred at the Prescott National Cemetery. Sunrise Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Rutherford*

January 30, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *I know Bob is with God. I pray also for you, Arda.*

Kitt Huffaker - August 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sorry for your lose. He was a delightful man. I'm sure he will be missed. Happy my life crossed his. Dorothy Miller*

Dorothy Miller - August 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Bob was a favorite BIL at our P.E.O. sister/brother group meetings. His smile was genuine and always made you feel good. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.*

Ann & Kaylor Ross

Ann & Kaylor Ross - August 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *I have known Bob for many years. He was always a kind and gracious individual. My condolences to Arda and the family.*

Howard Norman - August 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GR

“ Arda and family, so very sorry to read of Bob 's passing. Thanks Bob for sharing your experiences with Hopi artists with me. Rest in piece, Gordon

Gordon Rolfe - August 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Bob's teams and personal efforts created many jobs at Motorola during its best years. Many lives were touched in positive ways by this bright, innovative leader. Our thanks go out to his family for sharing him with us.

Mike Clayton - August 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

YS

“ Thank you for all your contributions to Mototola and to society. May your soul rest for eternity,

Yvonne Schuelke - August 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ My heart and condolences goes out to the wife and family of a technically competent, wise, and compassionate man. Mike Kirk

Mike Kirk - August 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Please know that you are never alone. Turn to the Holy Scriptures for guidance and to help soothe your heart. Psalms 34;18 assures us that God is near to those broken at heart and crushed in spirit. Please accept my deepest sympathies

S Ford - August 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

R(

“ *I had no idea of the civic and non-professional accomplishments and neighborhood associations of BobR... What a fine man! He never tooted his horn and he had so much to toot about! What a shame we don't know more about our friends until they are gone... RIP Bob... Best wishes to his surviving family...*

bobj

Robert Jarrett (Bob) - August 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ *Robert Rutherford*

Arda S. Rutherford - August 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM