

Robert M. Bolton, '73

Robert M. "Marcus" Bolton was born on September 3, 1951, in Jefferson City MO. Marcus passed at age 67 after a two-month battle with multiple myeloma on September 11, 2018, surrounded by his loving family at his home in Hendersonville TN. Marcus was eight years old when his father, Bob, died. Marcus and his sister, Karen, went to live with his grandparents in Wellsville MO. He graduated from Wellsville-Middleton High School in 1969 having lettered 16 times in various sports. Marcus liked sports! He also excelled academically – earning an appointment to the Air Force Academy, Class of '73. He resided all four years in cadet squadron two (CS 02), aka Deuce.

Marcus completed pilot training at Williams AFB, AZ. His service took him to over 50 countries. He logged over four thousand accident-free hours in several different aircraft. Flying assignments, in order, included Norton AFB in C-141s; Andrews AFB MD in VIP transport flying CT-39s and C-21s; and Ramstein AB GE, also in VIP transport. VIPs included Senators, Congressmen, General Officers and foreign heads of state. It was during these flying assignments that Marcus worked hard to become an expert in flight safety. While in Europe, in 1987, Marcus garnered the Air Force Individual Flight Safety Officer of the Year award, presented by the Air Force Chief of Staff.

Marcus' expertise in Safety led to his follow-on assignment in the Flight Safety section of the Defense Contract Management Agency. Here, he was tasked to investigate mishaps at contractor facilities throughout the US. He completed two six-month mishap investigations at West Coast assembly plants. Also, while in Northern Virginia, Marcus served as a White House Social Aide for three years under President Ronald Reagan. He was then assigned to the Seal Beach Boeing office in DCMA's Western Region in Southern California. He later assumed command of the unit. He relinquished command and retired in September 1999 after more than 26 years of active duty.

A move to Seattle followed. Marcus continued work as a civil servant and Director of the Technical Applications Group, DCMA Boeing Seattle. He retired from that assignment in 2011.

Now fully retired, Marcus travelled the world with his family and he renewed life-long friendships. Did we say Marcus liked sports? Marcus estimated that he played in, coached, refereed, and umpired more than 3,000 contests during his adult life. He was a soccer referee for more than 15 years! And if he weren't participating in some capacity, he was firmly planted in his recliner, watching sports on TV! Marcus liked sports!

Marcus lived a wonderful life: decorated Air Force officer, Command Pilot, loving father and husband, son and brother. Throughout his life, he was guided by his deep Christian faith and strong moral character; with the foundation strengthened at the Academy. He taught Sunday School for 18 years!

Marcus is survived by his wife **Delaney Sorci**, sister Karen Edmondson, mother Roanna Johnson, son Joshua (Liesel), daughter Jeanne Lyday, two grandsons Zachary and Newton, niece Keesha Warren, and his cousin Billy (who was like a brother). Also missing him are his '73 Deuce squadron mates and Class of '74 friends, Jim Kelly, Jim Fiorenzi, and the late Bob Pappas.

A funeral Mass was held on September 17, 2018 in the Catholic Cadet Chapel followed by interment at the Air Force Academy Cemetery.

(Marcus' wife, Delaney Sorci)