

Obituary

Robert A. Stratton, 70, of Lorton, VA went to be with his Heavenly Father on May 2, 2022 after a short illness. He was surrounded by his loving family as he went to his eternal home.

Born in Clarkston, WA in 1951, Bob was a standout student and athlete, earning Clarkston High School class valedictorian honors followed by an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. A distinguished 1973 graduate of USAFA, he embarked on a 29-year career as an Officer in the United States Air Force. As an Air Force fighter pilot, he flew the F-15 Eagle until 1987, capping his flying career as the Safety Officer and Chief, Current Operations of the 32nd Tactical Fighter Squadron in Soesterberg, the Netherlands. Bob then spent the remainder of his Air Force career in military-political affairs, including assignments on the U.S. Delegation to CFE Negotiations in Vienna, Austria; on the Joint Chiefs of Staff; as the Chief of the Office of Defense Cooperation at the U.S. Embassy in Bonn, Germany; and in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs. He retired from the Air Force as a Colonel in October, 2001.

The most meaningful assignment of his Air Force career was as an Olmsted Scholar of the Class of 1981. The Olmsted Foundation is a non-profit organization that promotes graduate studies and cultural immersion for military members. His studies in Freiburg, Germany led to many lifelong friendships and it was also during this assignment that he met the love of his life, Patty DuBois. After his retirement from the Air Force and several years working in the defense industry, Bob chose to give back to the Olmsted Foundation, serving as Vice President for nine years. During this time, Bob and Patty loved serving as mentors to young Olmsted scholars and their families, building deep relationships across the globe and developing the country's next generation of leaders.

Bob and Patty married on September 16, 1983 after their return from Freiburg. They gladly went wherever the Air Force sent them as they grew their family, welcoming five children along the way. The Stratton house was never quiet but was always full of laughter and joy. A loving husband and devoted father, Bob worked tirelessly to provide for his family. He delighted in his children's accomplishments in sports and scouts, and was very proud that all of his children were college graduates. He relished being "Papa Laser" to his grandchildren and loved to dote on them. Favorite family memories include ski trips in the Alps, beach vacations in Emerald Isle, NC, and sharing many laughs with their neighbors of the last 17 years on Pasquel Flower Place.

Notwithstanding his long list of accomplishments, Bob's greatest legacy is his faith in Jesus as his Lord and Savior that he imparted to his children. He is survived by his wife, Patty; children Robert Stratton (Mollie), Chris Stratton (Katie), Erika Garber (Jonathan), Ashleigh Stratton and Jessica Stratton; grandchildren Eleanor, Jane, Ben, Rosie, Tessa and Robert; siblings Caroline Onstot, Linda Hoover (Jim) and Bill Stratton; and many nieces and nephews.