

Captain John B. Van Coevering

VAN COEVERING, JOHN B., age 60, longtime resident of South Miami, passed away on Saturday, September 17, 2011. Mr. Van Coevering was born June 7, 1951 in Schenectady, New York, the second son of the late John Van Coevering, Jr. and Rachael M. Giddings Van Coevering. After graduating from high school in 1969, he received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy.

While at the Academy, “JB” as he was nicknamed by his squadron mates, was known for his independent thought and passionate pursuit of outside interests. He was most admired and respected for standing up for his beliefs and values and not just going along with the flow. His hobbies included skiing and camping. After graduation from the Academy in 1973, he attended Undergraduate Pilot Training at Laughlin AFB, TX. He served in the US Air Force, achieving the rank of Captain, as an aircraft commander on KC-135s for the Strategic Air Command.

He joined US Airways in 1983 where he rose to become both a Captain on Airbus aircraft and a Check Airman with the responsibility for passing on qualifications of aspirants to command. John was a member of Christ the King Lutheran Church, where he sang in the choir and was active with the Fellowship Committee. He was involved with scouting for almost ten years, and at one time served as scoutmaster for Troop 336, Boy Scouts of America. John is survived by his mother, brother, and sister, as well as by his wife of 28 years, the former Deborah Anderson; daughters, Melonija and Alicia; son, Jonathan and fiancée, Heather Bryan and granddaughter Hope Elizabeth. His memory will be cherished by family and Academy squadron mates alike.