



Capt. Robert E. Holton

April 8, 1941 - January 29, 1969

Captain Robert E. Holton, MIA from the Vietnam War is coming home after being Missing in Action for over 48 years. Bob's F4 mission over Laos was hit by enemy fire on January 29, 1969. He was listed as MIA until his remains were found in June, 2017. Bob had a distinguished military career in the Air Force. His medals include, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart, Air Medal with one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster and two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor and two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Combat Readiness Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with four Bronze Service Stars, Air Force Longevity Service Award with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm and Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Bob was born April 8th, 1941 to his wonderful parents, Ed and Norma Holton. Three years later he welcomed his brother, Bill on the same day. Bob and Bill had a wonderful childhood. The family home was across the street from Emerson Grade School, and was a favorite meeting place for all the neighborhood kids. His family enjoyed many years of camping and boating, finally settling on their favorite place in the Georgetown Boat Club. They spent many years boating water skiing and loved their summers there. Bob always worked from the time he was young. He worked for Bernie's Pharmacy and F&S Construction before college.

Bob went to Emerson Grade School, graduated from Butte High in 1959. He then graduated from the University of Montana in 1965, where he was a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity and the Air Force ROTC program.

Bob married the former Dianne Eck in June, 1966. He entered the Air Force, and they were stationed in Arizona, then Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Bob and Dianne loved their short time together, and made many life long friends.

Bob's greatest love was his family and friends. He loved flying; but his biggest passion was music. He could play almost any instrument, but especially loved piano, saxophone and clarinet. He was in a dance band in high school, and then played in various places while he went to the University of Montana. If Bob wanted to relax he went to his piano.

Since Bob's death, he has been joined by his father and mother, Ed & Norma Holton, grandparents, Dick and May Harry, Les and Gwen Holton, father-in-law and mother-in-law, Les and Irene Eck Uncles and Aunts, Jack Harry, Al and Ruth Holton and Bill and Nonie Holton.

Bob is survived by his former wife, Dianne (Roy) Moody, Brother, Bill (Judy) Holton, Nephew, Todd (Karen) Holton and their daughters, Ashley and Taylor Holton, Aunt,

Mitzi Lacey, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Dave Eck Dennis (Gretchen) Eck, Dwight (Pam) Eck and several cousins and nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the Air Force, National League of POW/MIA Families, and our Government for all their years of searching for Bob. We know they will keep trying to find all our missing men, and we are praying everyone has the closure they deserve.

We would also like to thank Ed Conway, USAF and Wayrynen's for their compassion and guidance in these final steps. A special thank you goes to the USAF honor guard, Montana and Idaho Patriot Riders and other groups

including the Butte America Legion Post and the United Veterans Council for their honoring Bob in his final travels.

Memorials may be sent to: National League of POW/MIA Families, 5673 Columbia Pike, Suite I-00, Falls Church, VA 22041.

Dad, you promised Mom you would bring Bob home. He is home now, rest in Peace. Love you forever.

Cemetery Details

Sunset Memorial Park

16 miles west of Butte
Butte, MT 59701

Previous Events

Service

JUL 22. 10:00 AM (MT)

Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home
1800 Florence Ave
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 723-3221
<https://wayrynen-richards.com/>

Tribute Wall

JP

“ I found a bracelet with his name and the date 1/29/1969 engraved. Wondering if it can be returned to the family somehow. Catsailcrew@yahoo.com. I'm in Maryland near the Naval Academy in Annapolis. Hopefully someone will reach out to me.

Jodie Perkins - May 26 at 06:16 PM

BD

“ During my Freshman year in College in 1974, I purchased a POW/MIA bracelet with Capt. Robert Holton's name. I wore it for years, and thought of him often. The recent PBS airing of the Vietnam War spurred me to look for him. Of course, like everyone else, I always hoped he was just missing and he would be found. That was not to be. How wonderful to read that after 48 years, his remains were found and his family could have some closure. My condolences to his family. From what I've read, he must have been a wonderful man.

Becky Reid Davis
Firth, Idaho

Becky L. Davis - September 27, 2017 at 05:34 PM

LW

I also have his bracelet and would love to send it to a family member to have . I live in West Virginia and you can find me on Facebook. Larry Wingo Hurricane Wv 25526

larry wingo - August 30, 2023 at 08:49 PM

NS

I, too have his bracelet which I proudly wore all through high school and college. I will gladly send it on to the family. I can be reached on facebook as well

Nancy Shrode - August 21, 2024 at 11:09 PM

LD

“ My mom, Jane (Harry) Mehrens, was the sister of Dick Harry. I remember when this happened and the devastating effect this had on Norma, her niece. My mom was heartbroken for her. I am living in Denver, Colorado, and know that if my mom, we're still living, she would be so thankful that he was finally brought home. It would certainly have brought Norma peace. My condolences - this sad event strongly affected me and I have never forgot the pain his family endured. My love to all -- Linda (Mehrens) Dennehy

Linda Dennehy - July 27, 2017 at 10:26 AM

DG

“ it was my honor to meet Bob at the U of M. We were in the same pledge class as Sigma Chi's. We were in the same ROTC classes there and qualified for flight school together With several other brothers at the house. We met and married wonderful Montana women, both who were Thetas. Fondly, I remember that Bob could not wait to be an F4 Phantom driver. We attended social functions and classes together. Later, after school, Bob went on to the Air Force and I became a commercial airline pilot. I was thrilled to hear that he had qualified in F-4s an horrified when I heard he was MIA.

Today, I picked up my cousin who was also a Theta in Missoula. On our drive to Polson, she told me of the recovery of Bob's remains. A friend, coming home at last!

Rest In Peace old friend. We hope this bring closure to Diane and the whole family.

Our respect and love to his family

Respectfully,
Lynn and Don Gnose
112 Mission Bay Dr
Polson, Mt

Don Gnose - July 21, 2017 at 11:21 PM

PS

“ To Bob and his family,
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE. Have prayed for your return since we heard the news of your F4 in 1968. Also wore a POW/MIA bracelet in your honor. PTL you are finally at rest. Sincerely, Pat Scott Cloninger/Stauffer, Your friend from AFROTC at the University.

Patricia Stauffer - July 20, 2017 at 09:22 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Capt. Robert E. Holton.*



July 19, 2017 at 11:58 AM

MM

“ *I have been following the beautiful articles about recovery of Bob's remains. Brings back so many memories!!!! We lived across the street from the Eck's on Nettie St. While growing up we watched Bob and Diane throughout their relationship and of course we loved their beautiful wedding!!! As kids who were greater than 4 years younger and found it all very romantic. I so remember when Bob was reported missing a few months before my own wedding! We were so sad and the impact of his loss has been felt always when talking about the Vietnam War. We have visited the Vietnam Memorial and were moved to find Bob's name. So many memories. Hard to believe that after 48 years your family finally has answers. Blessings and peace to all of you.*
Mary Mouat

mary Mouat - July 18, 2017 at 10:37 PM

KG

“ *Bill & Judy, Bob is home at last. My prayers and love are sent to you and your family. Love Jack and Kathy Ghenie*

Kathy Ghenie - July 15, 2017 at 05:36 AM