



## Robert Eugene Murphy

January 30, 2018

Robert Eugene Murphy, age 90, died at home in Venice, Florida on January 30, 2018. Born in 1927 in East Stroudsburg, PA, he was the son of Clarence R. Murphy and Nora Cramer Murphy, and was pre-deceased by his older sister Ruth Murphy Bocko. He graduated with a degree in electrical engineering from Penn State University in the late 1940's. He and his first wife, Lydia Nyce Murphy, who were married in 1948, had three children, who were raised mostly in Rocky Hill, CT. After graduating from Penn State, Robert moved to New London, CT, and began working at the Hartford Electric Light Company in 1950. He soon moved to Manchester, CT and then a few years later to Rocky Hill, CT, where he and Lydia lived for about thirty years. He retired from Northeast Utilities in the early 1980's. He and his second wife, Caroline (née Giuliano) were married in 1981. They moved to Venice, FL in 1990.

In his younger years, Robert enjoyed playing golf, tennis and badminton. He went fly-fishing in the streams of Connecticut, and hunting in the Connecticut State Forest. He taught his daughters how to play chess when they were very young. He was an avid and advanced ham radio operator (his call sign was WA1UHG), having received training in wireless radio operation during a year that he spent in the Navy from 1945 - 1946 before finishing college. He often spent vacations taking his family camping and canoeing in New England or upstate New York. He loved gardening, and grew vegetables (including corn) and flowers.

With his second wife, Caroline, he travelled in Europe, attended many cultural events, and very much enjoyed life in Florida. He and Caroline enthusiastically took their visiting family members to many wonderful places, such as the John and Mabel Ringling Museum and the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, the Myakka River State Park to see alligators, the John "Ding" Darling Wildlife Refuge, to the Venice jetty to see the pelicans, and of course, to the lovely town of Venice. He especially loved to go to the Venice Audubon Society's "Rookery", a natural nesting area on an island, to see the herons and ibises, and where he once happily encountered Roger Tory Peterson. Robert Murphy is survived by his wife, Caroline, of Venice, FL, his daughters Doris Ruth Murphy of Pennington, NJ and Susan Murphy Colombini of Sandy Spring, MD, and his son Robert Hurlbut Murphy of Lancaster, MA. He is also survived by his stepdaughter, April Colter of Lakeland, TN, and his stepson, Darren Flanagan of Port Charlotte, FL. He has nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and four step-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held for him on Friday, March 23, 2018 at 11:00am at the Venice Presbyterian Church, 111 Firenze Avenue East, Venice, Florida 34285, where his ashes will be interred in the burial ground there.

A guest book for Robert E. Murphy may be viewed and signed on the website of Toale Brothers in Venice, FL at [www.toalebrothers.com](http://www.toalebrothers.com).

# Tribute Wall

LC

“ *A kind and generous man. Our condolences to the family. Bob and Caroline were so kind and gracious to my parents when they came to Florida for their first and only time years ago. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.*

---

**Linda Colombini** - March 21, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *Generous, with a kind heart and always a smile. I knew Bob as a member of the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club.*

---

**Robert Miller** - March 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ *Dear Friends and Family,*

*We just wanted to let you know that if you wish to make a donation on Bob and Caroline's behalf, they were supporters of the Venice Audubon Society (<https://www.veniceaudubon.org/>). Also they both loved PBS, and a donation to your local Public Television Station would be appreciated.*

*The Memorial Service for Robert E. Murphy will start at 11:00am in the chapel of Venice Presbyterian Church, located at 825 The Rialto, Venice, Florida. There will be a light lunch served after the ceremony, at the church's Glass House Cafe. Hope to see you there.*

*Sue*

---

**Susan Murphy** - March 14, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Dear Grandpa,

*It was a joy to visit you guys growing up.  
Your kindness, thoughtfulness, and enthusiasm were contagious.  
Easy-going with warm hospitality, we were always welcome.  
Some of my brightest memories as a child were while visiting.  
Thank you for those experiences, and your love.*

*Rest in peace, Grandpa,  
We love you.*

---

**Ben Colombini** - March 10, 2018 at 12:00 AM

“ *Lamentation for Dad*  
by his daughter Sue

*The family mourns. The family mourns. The family mourns.*

*We will miss Dad.*

*Missing will be his fun-loving spirit, his warmth and caring, his efforts to enjoy life and bring meaning to it.*

*Missing will be the times we had together; the times he took us camping, the times he taught us canoeing, the times we spent fishing, the times we spent enjoying nature.*

*Missing will be the times together in Florida, visiting the parks and beaches, eating together in his favorite restaurants, spending time with him.*

*Missing will be having ice cream together, talking together, watching TV together, discussing the weather, sitting quietly together*

*We will remember Dad.*

*Remembered will be his good fathering when we were little; remembered will be the games we played, the badminton court he built, the ice-skating rink he made.*

*Remembered will be his kind help with our homework, his patient listening to our piano practice, his encouragement of our artistic endeavors.*

*Remembered will be his instructions on building, his partnership in our projects, his teaching about photography.*

*Remembered will be the ping-pong games, the chess games, the baseball games, the amateur golf in our front yard.*

*Remembered will be the bike-riding he taught, the car-driving he taught, the lessons in life he taught*

*Remembered will be his enthusiasms: his ham radio hobby, his vegetable gardening, the zinnias he grew, the nice yard he kept, the life-long friendships he cultivated.*

*We will honor Dad.*

*Honored will be the memory of his loyalty: his loyalty to his wife and*

*family, his loyalty to his friends, his loyalty to his co-workers, his loyalty to his country.*

*Honored will be his positive influence: his good counsel and advice, his nurturing and encouraging, the good example he set.*

*Honored will be his steadfast support: his hard work and planning, his organizing, his understanding, his generosity, his tolerance*

*Honored will be the love he had for us all.*

*So many good things in life.so hard to let it go.*

*The family mourns. The widow mourns. The children mourn. The friends mourn.*

*We will miss you, Dad. We will remember you always. May you rest in peace.*

---

**Susan Murphy** - March 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM