



## Robert E. "Bob" Ritter

August 12, 1928 - April 25, 2020

Robert E. "Bob" Ritter, 91, of Anderson, passed away on April 24th, 2020 at Hamilton Trace Senior Living in Fishers, IN. He was born on August 12, 1928 in Anderson, IN to Ralph Rupert and Mary Elizabeth Ritter.

Bob graduated from Anderson High School in 1946, where he was a three-sport athlete and a member of the 1946 IHSAA Boys' Basketball State Championship team. Bob, along with teammate Jumpin' Johnny Wilson (Mr. Basketball) were both selected to the Indiana All-Star team in 1946 as well. After high school, Bob attended Indiana University, where he played two seasons for the Hoosiers under Coach Branch McCracken. After becoming a Sigma Chi, he joined the ROTC and sang in a competitive barbershop quartet, all while earning a BS degree in Chemistry.

Upon graduation, Bob pursued his two passions. He married his college sweetheart, Patsy Lou Miller on June 18, 1950 and soon after was commissioned in the United States Air force. Bob loved to fly jets and he and Pat prepared for a career in the Air Force as he moved up the ranks from Captain to Lieutenant Colonel. Shortly after the birth of their third daughter, Bob was on mission when he got word Pat contracted the polio virus while stationed in the Philippines. Pat was transported to Walter Reed hospital in MD, then to Brooks AFB in Texas, where she remained in an iron lung for the next year as Bob continued to serve.

With his wife permanently confined to a wheelchair, Bob retired from USAF active duty in 1959 and returned to his hometown of Anderson, IN where he accepted a position as a Systems Analyst for GM. Once home, he satisfied his love for the USAF by serving in the USAF Reserves and spending many weekends at Grissom Air Force Base near Kokomo until retiring in 1974.

After the birth of child four and five, Bob continued at GM and spent his evenings building a successful Shaklee distributorship. Converting a portion of their home into a retail store, Pat had a social outlet to serve and visit with customers from their home for nearly 20 years.

In 1987, Bob and Pat's determination to overcome adversity was recognized as they received the 1987 "Family of the Year" award, given by the Anderson Chamber of Commerce. Bob spent his free time serving as a member of the First United Methodist Church, planning adventurous family vacations and attending all five children's school and sporting activities.

Bob's life was marked by a sacrificial love for his wife and children, patriotism and a life-long commitment to loving and serving his friends in need.

He is survived by his children, Pam (Larry) Williams, Kristin Hill of Indianapolis, Leslie Condon of McCordsville, MaryBeth (Brian) Merz of Strongsville, OH, and Jeff (Megan) Ritter of Fishers; grandchildren, Patrick Hill, Rendi (Steve) Brooks, Trey Hacker, Dustin Hacker, Nathan (Lori) Hacker, Bryon (Lea) Foley, Broc Foley, Brie Condon, Bryn Condon, Michael Merz, Amanda (Destin) Ramsey, Matthew Merz, Alexis Merz, Adria (Kevin) Sullivan, Taylor (Jayson) Koerselman, Mackenzie Ritter, Joseph Malone and Holden Malone; great-grandchildren, Gentry Hacker, Dustin Hacker Jr., Quintin Hacker, Elizabeth Hacker, Marshall Brooks, Madison Brooks, Mitchell Brooks, Austin Hacker, Kasey Hacker, Harper Koerselman, Penelope Koerselman,

Finley Sullivan, Farrah Sullivan, Theodore Stinson, Aiden Merz, Ethan Cirignano Merz, Lennox Ramsey, Liam Foley, Aria Foley, Noah Penley and Elliot Foley; and great-great grandsons Gentry Hacker and George Hacker. Also surviving is his beloved sister Sara Ann Vargo; niece Nancy Ann Vargo; and great niece, Emma Ford.

He was preceded in death by his wife and parents.

Private visitation and services will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at Loose Funeral Homes & Crematory with a burial in East Maplewood Cemetery, Anderson.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer Association or First United Methodist Church in Anderson.

# Cemetery Details

**East Maplewood Cemetery**

# Tribute Wall

B(

“ To Leslie & her siblings: I'm so sorry for the loss of your dad. I didn't know him well, but knew the rest of you. Your mom was our Brownie leader & we had fun coming to your house.  
Barb (Heritz) Lindzy

Barb (Heritz)Lindzy - May 08, 2020 at 12:59 PM

TK

“ Leslie, so sorry to hear about your dad. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Tara (Passwater) King

Tara King - May 02, 2020 at 10:22 PM

PA

“ Love, condolences, and sympathy to Bob's family. You are in our thoughts & prayers.

From the Ansons (Joan, Pierce, Todd, Shelli, Dana)

Pierce Anson - April 29, 2020 at 09:48 AM

TJ

“ Bob was a friend to my parents, Bob and Peg Johnson. They were part of their Bridge Club.  
My deepest sympathies.

Terese Johnson - April 28, 2020 at 09:35 AM

KB

“ I remember your family from First United Methodist. Always together as a family, including his parents. Condolences to all of you. Kim Blagg

Kimberley Blagg - April 28, 2020 at 07:19 AM

DA

*Jeff, our family's thoughts and prayers are with you, your father and your family and friends. Your Dad's influence as a coach and mentor on our youth basketball team is an experience I've never forgotten. A very good man and I wish you well at this difficult time. David Ayers and family*

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**David Ayers** - April 28, 2020 at 08:16 AM