Robert Alexander Bobulinski

September 7, 1947 - December 1, 2015

After enjoying a fantastic Thanksgiving meal with his family, CDR Robert Alexander Bobulinski, USN (Ret), 68, suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage and was taken from his home in Virginia Beach, VA to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital in Norfolk, VA where he slipped into a coma.

On December 1, 2015, Robert "Santa Bob" Bobulinski passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, friends, and the community he cared so much about.

Born in Levittown, NY on September 7, 1947, he was the son of Alexander and Susan Bobulinski.

After growing up in East Meadows, NY, he went to Pennsylvania State University where he met his first wife, Karen Keller, and received a commission into the United States Navy in 1969, while earning the first of many degrees.

His naval career carried him all over the world as he served his nation proudly for 22 years in the Navy's Supply Corps.

After attaining the rank of Commander, he retired and settled down in Virginia Beach, VA.

What time he didn't devote to his work in the Navy was spent being intimately involved in the lives of his three children, Michael, Tony, and Stacia.

A dedicated father, Robert felt he may have missed his calling to serve others and spent the latter third of his life walking the walk, as he called it.

With his children grown and in college, he embarked on a journey that would change his life and many lives around him.

Founded in 1991, Robert's Virginia Beach based non-profit organization Making a Difference Foundation (MADF) started working with disadvantaged youth to help them succeed in school and prepare them for the challenges of college.

During this time, he met his second wife, Alicia Fernandez.

Alicia's children Michael and Jessica provided Robert with another family to care for.

With the full support of his family, Robert championed many causes, seeking to make a difference.
Through the nonprofit, Robert and his wife aided children, teens and adults. The organization continues to offer tutoring, mentoring, SAT preparation, English as a Second Language lessons, job and college application assistance and a Hispanic outreach program.

For 23 years Santa Bob, as he came to be known by all of those he helped, worked to be the change he wanted to see.

At Christmas time each year, with the help of NBC’s Today Show’s Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Robert, dressed as Santa, brought cheer to any and all within the Hampton Roads community, selflessly putting the needs of others ahead of his own.

Although he was often heard declaring that the children, teens and adults he helped were champions, Santa Bob was the true champion.

He is survived by his wife, Alicia Fernandez-Bobulinski; his children, Michael (and wife Alanna) Bobulinski, Tony Bobulinski, Stacia Bobulinski, Michael (and wife Luiza) Brown, and Jessica Brown; his grandchildren, Mahki, Kate, Sara, Samantha, Antonio, Jalicia, and Antony; his father, Alexander Bobulinski; his two brothers, Steve and Greg Bobulinski; and his ex-wife, Karen Keller.

All are welcome to come celebrate Robert's life Friday, December 11, 2015 from 4:00 - 6:00 PM, at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 1396 Lynnhaven Parkway in Virginia Beach, VA.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated the same day from 6:00 - 7:00 PM.

A reception will follow the mass.

Robert will be accorded full military honors as he finds his final resting place among the waves in a burial at sea.

If you are unable to join his family, friends and loved ones on December 11th, come to Frankie's Place for Ribs, 5200 Kempsville Road in Virginia Beach, VA, on Saturday, December 19th, and further celebrate his life during the MADF Annual Christmas Event.

Make sure to wear a beard and Santa hat.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." - Mahatma Gandhi
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