

Robert Eugene Knachel was born on Father's Day, June 21, 1936, to Charles Eugene and Ellen Hoffman Knachel in Marion, Ohio. He had four siblings: Roger, Eleanor, Janet, and Mary Ellen. Mary Ellen died in infancy.

As a boy, he loved school, was involved in many activities, accepted leadership roles in all, and graduated from Marion Harding High School with honors. He was eager to go to college and chose Ohio State, from which he graduated with a BME. He was quite industrious and had many part-time jobs during these school years. He later received a BBA from the University of Texas and a MBA from Harvard.

Commander Knachel was proud to serve our country as a Navy officer. His Navy career began in NROTC at OSU and continued through tours aboard the USS Union AKA 106 as Engineering Officer, Main Propulsion, Damage Control, Beach and Surf Salvage CA; Staff, Commander Amphibious Squadron One, Commander Amphibious Forces Western Pacific, Maintenance Officer, ten ship squadron embarked in USS HENRICO APA 45 CA; NROTC Unit, University of Texas, Associate Professor of Naval Science teaching Naval Leadership and Weapons, counselor for Sophomore Midshipmen TX; Naval Supply Corps School, Student and Company Commander, graduated as the honor student GA; USS UNION AKA 106, Supply Officer over-the-beach operations moving cargo, equipment and UN troops into and around Vietnam CA; Boston Naval Shipyard, Inventory Control and Outfitting of New Construction Ships MA; Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, Student, awarded MBA MA; Naval Supply Depot, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, Planning Officer during Vietnam War and largest fleet buildup since WWII; Fleet Material Support Office, Operations Analysis Officer PA; Naval Supply Systems Command, Assistant Inspector General, Project Officer for development of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces VA; Armed Forces Inaugural Committee, Logistics Officer for President Reagan's first inauguration VA. These duty stations provided varied opportunities and exciting life experiences for Bob and his family.

Bob's faith, his church, his church family, and the opportunities to serve his God formed the basis for his life. He made a positive impact on many people and truly delighted in the opportunities he was given and the friends he made.

Bob met the love of his life when Carol Ann Morgan moved into the house directly across the street. He was in the tenth grade and she in the ninth. They 'went steady' through high school and college and were married June 14, 1959. He treasured her and called her 'My Angel' throughout the medical trials of his last two years. He met those trials with grace and dignity.

Bob loved his family dearly. His earthly presence will be missed, but he will live on through his son John, John's children, Stephen and Daniel; through his son David, Kelly, their children, Seth and Macie; and through the lives of the many he has touched.

*"The goal is not to live forever. It is to create something that will."*