



John Russell Robinson

November 30, 1948 - February 25, 2024

It comes with great sadness to announce that our father, John Russell Robinson, passed away on February 25, 2024 surrounded by his loved ones. John was born in San Diego, California on November 30, 1948. He has been a long time resident of the Northern Virginia area for the past 38 years.

John is preceded in death by his father, Raymond Milton Robinson, his mother, Mattie Taylor Robinson and his daughter, Lee Tracy Robinson. He is survived by Karin and their children Daniel, Michael (Marlies), David, Matthew and Heather, along with 6 grandchildren and his two sisters Martha Thomas (Jeff) and Becky Whisnant (Clay).

John graduated from the United States Military Academy West Point in 1971. He was commissioned as a United States Marine Corp officer and became a F-4 Phantom aviator. He served the Marine Corp for 20 faithful years. After his military retirement he went on to become a contractor for the Air Force for 30 more years.

John loved his family above all else. He will forever live in our hearts and be greatly missed.

His celebration of life will be held at Quantico National Cemetery on March 28, 2024 at promptly 1:30pm. In lieu of flowers please donate to the American Stroke Association in his name.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAR 28. 1:30 PM (ET)

Quantico National Cemetery
18424 Joplin Rd
Triangle, VA 22172-1636
(703) 221-2183

Tribute Wall

MT

“ John was the best big brother I could have had. It all started when I was born-the family had a black Cocker Spaniel-appropriately named Blackie. Mom brought an ugly baby home from the hospital who was allergic to just about everything - including Blackie. Dog had to go to the ‘farm’. I remember him walking me to school at South Oceanside Elementary School. We both spent a year in speech therapy (our mom had a speech impediment-she sounded normal to me). When I was three (he was five) he took my mom’s sewing scissors and gave me my first hair cut -one braid was cut off and hidden under his bed! Mom was not pleased and actually got him out of school to discuss his future as a hair dresser. His days in Cub Scouts led to him being the chief and wearing the appropriate head gear. John had severe nose bleeds-kept extra clothes in the principals office for the nose bleed days. I loved running into my mom when she had to bring more extra clothes for him! At this point in life he was a budding musician-until the day we were driving to Camp Matthews and the accordion he was learning to play wedged the cigarette burner in and the car caught on fire. We did make it to the parade that day...really don’t remember the details! Daddy came to the rescue. I remember the day he and his friend Buddy Waugh were playing in the woods and dug up a live hand grenade-good thing adults were in shouting distance. We all got lectures on handling grenades! Days were spent playing cowboys and Indians, occasional trips to the pier and going to the beach. The Pacific is so much colder than the Atlantic. The trips to see east coast family provided that lesson. Disneyland opened when he was 7. John’s favorite ride was Dumbo-the beginning of his love of flying. John fell out of a swing at a Cub Scout meeting and ended up with a compound fracture of his right arm. His first bike was a red Schwinn and he was allowed to ride his bike the mile or so to a little store and he always bought sunflower seeds. Our backyard backed up to an avocado grove-parents loved it - kids not so much. We always took avocados and oranges east when we visited family. John loved visiting our grandparents farm- the cows and pigs kept him occupied. My grandpa was a beekeeper and John’s favorite cousin tricked him into sitting in a chair that ended

up with his being stung by many.

When John was in 5th grade our family moved to Winnabow, my grandparents home. He went to Forest Hills Elementary and Mrs Huggins was his teacher. She changed his life by introducing him to comic books. He was able to start reading. California schools used the Dick and Jane series and he refused to read. Superman he would read! We moved to Wilmington when he was in sixth grade and he attended Chestnut Elementary School. Margaret McClammy was his teacher and she was able to pick up from Mrs Huggins and his love of learning began. In eighth grade he loved his English Teacher, Mrs Bellois and always felt she made a huge difference in his life. He visited her when he returned to Wilmington for several decades. John was a big guy-kind of a bull in a china shop. The junior high coach called my parents to ask him to play football-for some reason it did not work out. I think my parents were afraid of injuries due to his lack of coordination. His Boy Scout career ended with poison ivy at a Boy Scout Camp at Lake Waccamaw and a trip to the ER. In high school he was inducted into the Nation Honor Society and when my parents received the phone call to attend the induction ceremony, Mom did ask them to check and make sure they were calling the parents of the correct John Robinson. John was a late bloomer academically, socially and with sports. His Nov 30th birthday made him the youngest to start school in CA(cut off was Dec 1) but in NC the cutoff of Oct 15.

He escorted the winner in the Azalea Festival Teenage Division and was rewarded by attending all the the Azalea Festival events and he never sold light bulbs or candy bars. His high school girlfriend was a year younger than he was so she was not able to accompany him. After graduation it was on to Carolina for a year followed by West Point. He had conflicting feelings-he would rather have stayed at UNC in the NROTC program but my dad's heart was set on him attending a military academy. The rest is history. Our paths crossed randomly-he was in Chapel Hill visiting and found me - strangest time was the day he showed up in Subic Bay and was able to meet his nephew Scott. I saw a gentleness and love of children that I had no idea existed.

He will always be missed but he is tucked safely in the hearts of

many.....family was so important to him....

Martha Thomas - March 30, 2024 at 03:21 PM

DJ

“ I'm so sorry to learn of John's passing. He was a "travel buddy" of mine during my days of commuting into DC on the VRE. I didn't know him well, but I sure enjoyed his dry sense of humor. He was a sweet man, not to mention extremely handsome!
My most sincere condolences. I am keeping your family in my thoughts and prayers during this very sad and difficult time.

Dale Marie Jepson - March 28, 2024 at 03:10 PM

LJ

“ Leslie J. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Russell Robinson.

Leslie J. - March 28, 2024 at 08:02 AM

CF

“ Chesterfield Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Russell Robinson.

Chesterfield Family - March 27, 2024 at 07:46 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Russell Robinson.



March 27, 2024 at 07:46 AM

BF

“ *Becky & Martha & families purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of John Russell Robinson.*



Becky & Martha & families - March 20, 2024 at 12:16 PM

BF

“ *Becky & Martha & families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Russell Robinson.*

Becky & Martha & families - March 20, 2024 at 12:16 PM

LR

“ *I was so sorry to learn of John's passing. I knew him only through his youngest sister, Becky, as she was my best friend while growing up in Wilmington, NC. As you can guess, her family was very proud of John. I, along her friends here in Wilmington are sending your family our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time for peace and light.*



Lucy Rowe - March 19, 2024 at 09:30 PM