



Robert P Mullins

August 22, 1943 - March 9, 2015

Robert “Bob” Patterson Mullins, age 71, of Worthington, OH died at home on Monday, March 9 after a long battle with cancer. He served in the U.S. Army, including a tour in Vietnam, and retired from the Ohio Education Association. Over the years, he was a teacher, labor advocate, civil rights organizer, photographer, writer, private pilot and loving husband, father and grandfather.

He is preceded in death by parents Merwyn L. and Lillian G. Mullins and sister Joann Bond. He is survived by wife Suzanne “Sue” Mullins, brothers James “Jim” Mullins (Jackie) and Thomas “Tom” Mullins, sons Darrel (Michelle) of Des Moines, IA and Richard (Robin) of Tampa, FL and grandchildren Ethan, Ryan, Anna, and Tessa.

Bob graduated from George Rogers Clark High School, Hammond, IN, and received a bachelor’s degree in education from Indiana State University. He worked toward a master’s degree from Indiana University/Purdue University, Calumet Campus.

While a young man, Bob was part of civil rights group from Terre Haute, IN, who traveled to Albany, GA to establish “Freedom School” and register African Americans to vote under the new Voting Rights Act of 1965. After college, Bob taught English and social studies in Hammond public schools. He later worked as a field representative for the Indiana State Teachers Association, and for

25 years with the Ohio Education Association, primarily as a communications consultant assisting local teachers with crisis situations.

He was a long-time member of Worthington United Methodist Church and helped establish the Interfaith Hospitality Network, serving as chair of its Administrative Council. He was an avid private pilot and member of both the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association and the Experimental Aircraft Association. Over 53 years of flying, he flew to Washington, Chicago, New Orleans and Denver, and once successfully landed in a field near Hays, KS, when the engine on his plane failed. He volunteered with the EAA's World War II B-17 bomber touring the Midwest and East Coast, and recently had the great pleasure of flying a P-51 "Mustang" aircraft in Florida.

Bob's great love was being with his grandchildren and watching them grow. Sons Darrel and Richard have grown to become wonderful adults with outstanding professions. Bob's greatest joy has been his wife and life partner, Sue, who defined "in sickness and in health." A family gathering will be planned in the future. Instead of flowers, donations to your favorite charity are encouraged. Some of Bob's were: American Cancer Society, Habitat for Humanity, Southern Poverty Law Center, Ohio PIRG, US Air Force Museum and the ASPCA.

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert P Mullins*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *I want to express my deepest sympathy to Bob's family, loved ones and friends.*

I worked with Bob in the summer of '65 as one of the 4 Saint Mary-of-the-Woods students and Bob as one of the 2 ISU students who join the Albany GA SCOPE team, along with 2 Sisters of Providence, Sisters Mary Jean and Alma Louise. We had an amazing summer working in literacy education and voter registration. We felt such satisfaction when the Voting Rights Act became law on Aug 6, 1965! Bob had a great sense of humor, an amazing attribute during those dangerous times--I remember well his large laughter and great smile. On our drive south, one of our cars got flat tire. Bob quickly changed the tire--in the rain!--joking all the way. He was genuinely optimistic that the civil rights movement, in which he was a proud participant, would truly overcome racism.

Some years ago, Bob kindly sent me a copy of an interview he did with Sr. Alma Louise. I so much appreciated his thoughtfulness in tracking me down in NY and sending the tape.

I had so hoped that he would attend this October's SCOPE/SCLS reunion in Atlanta. I am very saddened by his passing, and will always remember his delightful laughter, courage and kindness.
Midge Maroni

Midge Maroni - April 18, 2015 at 05:48 PM



Thank you, Midge, for posting this remembrance. If it is possible for one's life purpose to be set at age 20, then Bob's was. I wonder if that car was the one he was driving when he was shot at. He knew he had to make it back across the county line in order to escape. And he made it. The car didn't!

Sue Mullins - April 25, 2015 at 04:56 PM

“ Bob Mullins, to me, was always a complete guy, a whole guy, a guy with integrity. I could count on my fingers the number of such people I’ve known in life. He seemed to exude honor. Visiting with him for a while helped keep one’s moral compass calibrated.

That’s not to say he was Mr. Goodie Two-Shoes. He wasn’t exactly above civil disobedience. We taught together in the same high school in Hammond, Indiana. In 1970, we stayed on strike for seven days in defiance of a court injunction. Bob was our journalism teacher and handled the voracious Chicago and local media for our union like an old hand during the strike. Years later, with OEA, he was a “creative” supporter of a couple of OASU strikes, flirting with the bosses’ limits, but willing to give up a few days’ pay for OASU. He has immunity now for anything else there may have been along the way.

Bob and I were not close pals, although our paths ran together over the years. We were at Indiana State together, a year or two apart, in the early ‘60s, with mutual friends, but we didn’t know it until a few years later when we taught together. At Indiana State, Bob became editor of “The Indiana Statesman,” the student newspaper. A few months ago, I sent him the copy I discovered of his first issue as editor, one he said he didn’t have. I’ve attached a picture of Bob and his Statesman staff.

We took union staff jobs elsewhere for a time before finding ourselves together again in Ohio. Unknowingly, he and I visited my home town in Indiana many times at the same time, each visiting parents. His lived in the same Methodist retirement village there as did my mother later.

His ever-present sense of humor and his deep, distinct, whole-body laugh were still with him when we last talked a few months ago. That’s the guy in my mind’s eye. His life was revolving around Sue, his sons, and his grandchildren. The rest of us can only hope and pray to leave this life with the grace Bob showed us. We’re all

gonna miss him.

Norm Young - March 16, 2015 at 05:01 PM

NY

“ 1 file added to the album Editor Mullins



Norm Young - March 16, 2015 at 04:59 PM



And there he is, the only one wearing plaid. Not a surprise, right Norm?

Sue Mullins - April 07, 2015 at 11:26 AM

DB

“ *My condolences to Sue, Darrel, Richard and their families. Bob will always be remembered as a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. I will always remember him as a cherished Uncle. He had a great love for life and a wonderful sense of humor. My family and I always enjoyed Bob and Sue's trips to the Tampa Bay Area...we loved visiting over meals, doing a little sightseeing and pouring over the many photos Bob shared with us (He loved taking pictures of his adventures and of his family!). He will be missed!*

*Our love,
Donna, Gary and Lauren Bernloehr*

Donna Bernloehr - March 16, 2015 at 07:15 AM

JW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jada Wilson - March 12, 2015 at 09:45 PM

JW

“ Sue, Darrel, Richard and family, You all have my heartfelt sympathy in your loss of Bob. I worked with him for many years at OEA and I always loved to hear him laugh. Just hearing him laugh would make me laugh too. May he live on in your precious memories until you meet him again.

Jada Wilson

Jada Wilson - March 12, 2015 at 09:24 PM

DW

“ Dear Sue,
Jane and I wish to express our sorrow for your loss.
Bob was one of the OEA Staff who was always helpful and supportive of me during my leadership roles with OEA.
With deepest sympathy,
Don Wilson

Don Wilson - March 12, 2015 at 10:16 AM

JP

“ Bob was truly one of the good guys. Unassuming, but always ready to step up and get the job done. We'll miss his quiet laughter. Jim and Jo-Ann Prater

Jim and Jo-Ann Prater - March 12, 2015 at 10:12 AM

BH

“ I am saddened by the news of Bob's passing..

Bob has always been one of my heroes. His work at OEA and with NSO was exemplary.

I first met him when my local association, the Howland Classroom Teachers Association went on strike in 1977. A member of the local bargaining team, I was tasked with the jobs of community relations. After the 13-day strike was over, our members credited community organizing and communications with much of the success of the strike. Bob played a major role in those efforts, and for that HCTA members will always be grateful.

When I became an OEA LRC in 1985, I was able to work with Bob on many projects; I continued to learn from him. When I became a Communications and Political Action Consultant later in my career, I still relied on Bob's guidance from time to time.

I also had the privilege of working with Bob on PSU matters. He and I served on the 1997 PSU bargaining team together, and he continued to amaze me with his creativity, dedication, and talent during a very difficult time at OEA.

Bob was unique, and for that we can all be grateful. Sadly, there won't be another Bob Mullins to serve OEA members and our union brothers and sisters.

My sincerest condolences to the family.

*Bill Hart
Surprise, Arizona*

Bill Hart - March 11, 2015 at 03:08 PM

HU

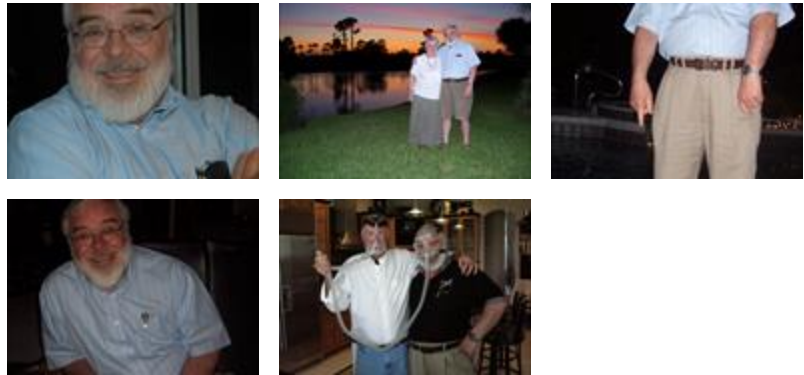
“ God Bless/RIP,to ALL who served. Thank YOU for your service in Vietnam,Bob..... And Semper Fi.



Herb Guyer-Sharfenaker USMC - March 11, 2015 at 10:28 AM

SS

“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



Sharon Sutherland - March 11, 2015 at 04:52 AM

LK

“ Bob was really a joy to work with at OEA and I will never forget him. He was a very kind person and made me laugh. I pray that God would give you the strength to cope with his loss. You have my sincere and deepest sympathies, Sue and family.

Linda Kelm

Linda Kelm - March 10, 2015 at 11:07 PM

LW

“ Bob's smiling face I remember well. He was a true gentleman and a kind, caring, knowledgeable individual whom I got to know by also working at OEA for many years. My deepest condolences to Sue, their sons and their families.

Linda Wozniak

Linda Wozniak - March 10, 2015 at 03:31 PM

RB

“ I remember Bob well from high school days and the Methodist Youth Fellowship in Whiting, Indiana. My deepest sympathy to Sue and family.

Ray Becich

Ray Becich - March 10, 2015 at 02:39 PM

SM

“ 7 files added to the album *A life well lived*



Suzanne Mullins - March 10, 2015 at 12:32 PM



So sorry to hear of your family tragic loss! Love Penny

Penny Arnold - March 10, 2015 at 01:25 PM

BW

Our heartfelt sympathy to you, Sue, Darrel and Richard and family.

Becky Weaver - March 10, 2015 at 06:07 PM

TN

Bob Mullins was just one of those special people who could light up a room, find the humor in a situation, treat everyone kindly and help when needed. I am thankful that I had the opportunity to work with Bob. Most of all I am thankful to have known him and seen him live life to the fullest. Sue, Darrel and Richard...I am so sorry you have lost him in the present. How wonderful the memories he gave you must be!

Toumonava Nave

Toumonava Nave - March 10, 2015 at 07:07 PM

Eva Hill

I will keep all who loved him in my thoughts.

Eva Hill - March 10, 2015 at 09:20 PM

SS

My sincere sympathy for the loss of your loved one and our friend, Bob. He was such an advocate....and union man. A kind and gentle soul inside a true fighter. Prayers to his family. Sheila Saad

Sheila Saad - March 11, 2015 at 08:52 AM

GR

Oh I will always remember that smile as we gathered for our NSO events across the country. We treasured Bob with his camera ever ready and his way with words. You were loved dear union brother. Hugs to Sue and family. Ginnie Ross

ginnie ross - March 11, 2015 at 10:05 AM

BH

*Saddened to hear that another of our "old gang" has passed on. Bob was unique and I mean that in the most positive of ways. He not only was gifted in his ability to communicate and advance the particular position we were advocating but in the most tense situations he could hit you with one of those dry wit zingers that would add the much needed levity that we all enjoyed.
My sincere condolences to Sue and family.*

Bob Holtsberry

Bob Holtsberry - March 12, 2015 at 11:45 AM

FF

I called Bob the Mozart/ Chopin of the keyboard on all crises and issues we faced. He taught me the difference between the angle and attitude of a plane's ascent. All i can say is, "what a guy! Frank Frankovich.

C

frank frankovich - March 12, 2015 at 05:40 PM