



## Robert Dean Pfeifer, Sr.

October 7, 1936 - December 17, 2019

Robert Dean Pfeifer Sr. passed away in his home on December 17, 2019 in Dallas Texas. He was born David Burnell Graham in Dallas on October 7, 1936 and adopted several days later by Paul and Mildred Pfeifer. He grew up in Austin Texas with one older brother, Bill. After graduating from Austin High School he attended The University of Texas for 2 years before leaving to join his brother to enlist in the U.S. Marines. During boot camp he became interested in flying and made the decision to pursue life as a Naval Aviator. Pre-flight in Pensacola and then on to Corpus Christi to get his wings, meeting and marrying Ann Heth, his wife of 30 years, along the way. The next 22 years were spent in education, training and flying off aircraft carriers around the U.S., Europe and East Asia. This time included multiple cruises to support our country in the tumultuous Vietnam War. He achieved the rank of Commander and his flight accomplishments are too long to list. In 1976 he transferred to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to work in Intelligence of the Pacific and began his love affair with long distance running. His last tours of duty were with recruiting in Dallas and New Orleans where he no doubt convinced many men and women to join what he loved to call "The World's Greatest Navy".

After retiring in 1981 he found a second career in Dallas with Dr. Pepper and threw his energy into helping grow that company through recruiting in the HR department. He met many new friends at Dr. Pepper that would be his people to golf, travel, and go out to eat with after he retired for good.

It was during this time that he began to research and seek out his biological family. This included frequent trips to Oklahoma to County Courthouses and cemeteries and notices in local newspapers. It was one such notice that eventually came to the attention of the Graham family in Irving Texas. After more than five decades Bob was united with 3 uncles, 2 aunts, several cousins and one very special, loving Grandmother Ella. Sadly his birth mother had already passed away 10 years after she gave birth to Bob. This family embraced him immediately and so began relationships for the next 30 years.

Bob was a committed member of Highland Park United Methodist Church where he served as an usher at the 8:30 service for over 20 years. He loved (in no particular order) the Texas Longhorns, running, anything U.S. Navy, Blue Bell ice cream, open carry laws, The Product (Dr. Pepper), a good cabernet, golf, an occasional cigar and The United

States of America.

He is survived by his three daughters Jennifer Flodstrom and husband Keith, Carol Stewart and husband Ron and Gwen Pfeifer and his son Bob "Beto" Pfeifer and wife Tiffany. His six FANtastic grandchildren: Natalie, Phoebe and Claire Stewart, Denton, Hunter Ann and Luke Pfeifer. He is also survived by his very long-term companion and year-long caregiver, Pat Ayers.

Bob will be buried at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. Memorials may be made to The Tailhook Educational Foundation at [Tailhook.net](http://Tailhook.net) or The Salvation Army.

The family requests that visiting hours be observed on Saturday, December 21, 2019 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Restland Funeral Home. Funeral service will be held on Sunday, December 22, 2019, at 11:00 AM in the Memorial Chapel at Restland Funeral Home. Funeral arrangements for Mr. Robert Dean Pfeifer, Sr. have been faithfully entrusted to Restland Funeral Home and Cemetery, which is located at 13005 Greenville Avenue, at Restland Road, Dallas, Texas 75243.

# Cemetery

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**Arlington National  
Cemetery**

Arlington, VA, 22211

# Events

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**DEC 21 Visitation 04:00PM - 06:00PM**

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Restland Funeral Home  
13005 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX, US, 75243

**DEC 22 Funeral Service 11:00AM**

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The Memorial Chapel at Restland Funeral Home  
13005 Greenville Avenue at Restland Road, Dallas, TX,  
US, 75243

# Comments

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“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Dean Pfeifer, Sr..



December 21, 2019 at 10:36 AM

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“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Dean Pfeifer, Sr..



December 20, 2019 at 07:42 PM

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“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Dean Pfeifer, Sr..



December 20, 2019 at 07:36 PM

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“ Rainbow Reflections Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Dean Pfeifer, Sr..



December 19, 2019 at 04:17 PM



“ Love, Cindy and Joe Montgomery purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Robert Dean Pfeifer, Sr..



**Cynthia Montgomery** - December 19, 2019 at 01:05 PM

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“ My Friend and Warrior Brother

Some people spend a lifetime wondering if they made a difference. Bob never had that problem. He was admired by his family and friends and respected by all who knew him. I am personally so grateful that he crossed my life's path for he left a footprint on my heart. Farewell Commander for I know you will have fair seas and following winds as you are now in the Loving Hands of our Supreme Commander. Fly Navy and Semper Fidelis my friend.

**Tom Senior** - December 17, 2019 at 11:07 AM



“ Carol and family,  
We always loved seeing your Dad and Gwen walk into Highland Village Elementary to see our favorite nurse. We were guaranteed a few laughs, and admired the relationship between a dad and his daughters. Commander Pfeifer's service to our country in the U.S. Navy will continue to be honored at our Veterans Day Ceremony each year.  
With sympathy,  
The Students and Staff of Highland Village Elementary

**Krista Brown, Asst. Principal** - December 21, 2019 at 06:35 AM