



Robert Ottinger

February 24, 1940 - August 1, 2018

Robert (Bob) Ottinger, age 78, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, August 1, 2018.

Born in San Mateo, California, to George and Catherine Ottinger, Robert earned his PhD in chemistry from Oregon State University in 1965 and went to work in Redondo Beach, California for TRW on the accelerating U.S. space program. He played a key role in the development of the engine for the Lunar Excursion Module, which landed the first man on the moon and was later used by the crew of Apollo 13 to return safely to earth when the main spacecraft was crippled by an oxygen tank explosion.

In 1975, Bob moved with his family to Washington, D.C., to work on developing fuels from non-traditional sources. In the early 1980s, he began to oversee TRW's efforts to address environmental challenges, eventually taking the position of TRW's Vice President for Environment in Cleveland, Ohio. He often noted that his goal was not only to solve current problems, but to put systems in place to avoid future ones.

Following his retirement, Bob moved with his wife, Barbara, to Pawleys Island, South Carolina, in 2003. He enjoyed trips with Barb to Alaska, the mountain West, and Brazil, and relished watching his grandchildren grow up. He attended St. Paul's Waccamaw United Methodist Church for several years,

savoring thoughtful discussions in adult Sunday school. After his health began to decline, he appreciated visits from his generous friends and family.

In addition to Barbara, his wife of 57 years, Bob is survived by his children Debbie and Greg Ottinger of Arlington and Richmond, Virginia, respectively, and by his grandchildren Becca and Brian Schaefer of Arlington, Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Bob's name to St. Paul Waccamaw Methodist Church.

Tribute Wall

LT

“ I remember Bob's booming voice and laugh cheering us as we were winding down the Energy Division at Tysons Corner. Bob and I were almost the last to turn out the lights! It was depressing, yet Bob the Optimist kept the ever-dwindling crew going. And he helped many of us find landing places. I really appreciated his help. Years later I briefly lived in Myrtle Beach and called Bob to meet for lunch, or whatever. I am so sorry we could not quite mesh visits. I will always remember Bob and his humor, friendliness and great memory--he always managed to keep track of where his people were. What a truly kind man! Lindsay Tipton

Lindsay Tipton - August 14, 2018 at 03:09 PM

DS

“ Barb, Bob and I worked together for many years. He was a wonderful guy To work with. We had many great times. Glad you got those years together. Love to you and your family. Daryl & Cathie Solomonson

Daryl Solomonson - August 14, 2018 at 12:50 PM