



Robert Eugene Ploung

April 10, 1925 - December 15, 2018

Life Legacy

Robert Eugene Ploung, a resident of Banning, CA passed away on Saturday, December 15, 2018.

Robert was born on April 10, 1925 in Waterloo, Iowa. He had three half sisters: Ruth, Mary & Jeannie and lived in many cities and states through the Depression, but finally settled in Minneapolis, MN where his parents were furriers.

In 1941, at age 16, he joined the Civil Conservation Corps and worked part-time as a Hydraulic Press Operator at Creamette. In 1942, at age 17, Robert met his future wife, Patricia Hickenlooper, while working at White Castle where she came in with his friend on a blind date. They began dating, shortly after.

He served in the Navy Seabees from 1943-1946 in locations including the South Pacific at New Caledonia, New Hebrides Island, Ulithi, and Okinawa during World War II.

Robert and Patricia married on May 8, 1947 raising their family, 2 sons and a daughter, in Minneapolis while he worked as a machinist at Northern Pump Co. In 1956 they moved the family to Fullerton, CA along with Patricia's parents who moved into the same neighborhood a few doors down.

Robert is survived by son Dale Ploung, his wife Sandra, daughter Wendy and grandchildren Jacob, Hannah, and Mason; son Michael Ploung, his wife

Lynda, son Ryan and grandchildren Jack and Ben; daughter Melanie Woods, her husband Phil, daughter Jennifer and son Cory and grandchildren Aidan and Declan.

Robert was a skilled dancer who loved music, especially that of the big band era. He was very active in his children's lives' serving as den leader for the Boy Scouts, supporting ballet, accordion and piano lessons, taking the family out for 'Sunday' drives, yearly camping trips, and adventurous road trips through Mexico. He managed the boy's band, The Variations, from middle school age through their 20's.

He worked at Fullerton Hughes Aircraft for 28 years developing and designing microwave components and antennas.

He enjoyed sailing on his 26' sailboat, traveling the states in his motorhome, cruising the world, riding motorcycles, skiing, scuba diving, playing poker and craps, and could fix anything he put his mind to.

Robert retired in 1985 at the age of 60 and was an avid adventurer who enjoyed world travel with his wife Patricia, and after her passing, with girlfriend Jean Johnson including well over 50 cruises and tours. He's hiked Nepal from cabin to cabin, hang-glided in Rio de Janero, stayed in African yurts surrounded by lions, sailed a yacht to the Galapagos Islands and skied into his late 70's. In 2011 Robert and Jean took a 110-day worldwide cruise visiting many locations they had yet to visit. In the past few years dad enjoyed the companionship of Pat Wright who appreciated music, drives and spending time with Robert's family.

Robert is a family hero who we are all so proud of. We all hope to experience the full life he had and face the future with the zest, humor, drive, unconditional love and support he exhibited throughout his life.

A chapel service will be held at 12 p.m on Saturday, December 29, 2018 at Memory Garden Memorial Park and Mortuary at 455 W. Central, Brea, CA 92821.

Tribute Wall

LS

“ Dale, we just learned of Bob's death a few weeks ago and have been trying to contact you. In 2002 we were on safari with your Dad and had kept in touch over the years visiting he and Jean in Banning and etc. We have some pictures that we would love to share with you. In fact, the movies that you may have seen from Africa were actually our movies because Bob's camera broke and he couldn't take any movies. Pleas send us an email at, leepaula94@comcast.net so we can send them to you. Our tel# is 520-887-6808 if you would like to call. Bob was a great guy and we loved to be and hear from him, Lee and Paula Schoenbrod

Lee D Schoenbrod - February 09, 2020 at 01:32 PM

SC

“ Dear Family,

Just wanted to say how great a family you are. Bob and Pat and family lived next door to us in Fullerton for many years. We moved into our home in the 1960s and immediately found such nice folks next door to us. I can remember the boys practicing in their garage for whatever gig they had coming up, as well as Melanie playing on her piano.

I will never forget our trip to Catalina. Bob and Wes took the sailboat over while Pat and I and my son, Wes, flew over. Coming home we hit winds at 20 knots coming into Newport. What an adventure!!! Such memories.....

After Bob moved to Banning he would stop by now and then to see how we were doing. Always a gentleman and wanting to know how we were doing. Not a lot of folks like him anymore....

You can know that you were blessed to have had such a nice man to share your life with.

*Blessings to you,
Sandy Colvin*

Sandy Colvin - March 01, 2019 at 11:40 PM

RB

“ You were the best friend anyone could ask for. Raylene & I love you & will miss you dearly.

Rich & Raylene Beeber - December 31, 2018 at 12:00 AM