



Robert Hollis Strauss, Jr. Co M-2

Never at a loss for words, Bob's ready humor and often penetrating wit both raised morale and deflated egos with uncanny realism. His respect for athletics, and devotion to a job well-done, have always displayed his steadiness and drive. This is the "Robbie" we all knew, endowed with the stuff of greatness; his future can be limited only by his own desires.

Born – 30 Aug 1937, Monterey, CA. Air Force Brat. Father BG Robert Hollis USMA '35, grandfather was USNA 1908, great-uncle William Connor USMA 1897 and the longest serving West Point Superintendent.

To USMA – Came from Monterey, CA. Appointed by California 17th.

Died – 22 Mar 1981 (age 43) at UCLA Medical Center, CA. Buried at West Point.

Military Awards – 3 Air Medals.

Schooling – Unknown.

Family – 2 sons (Brett, other) – niece (Caroline Leigh Kosco, USMA 2006) - Betty Straus Kosco and husband Bill Kosco USMA '62.

Contact – Unknown.

Bob served on active duty with the Air Force for 5 years, resigning in 1966, with the rank of Captain. He completed his pilot training at Webb AFB, TX. His first assignment was at Connelly AFB, TX where he flew student navigators in twin engine T-29 aircraft. He soon volunteered to support early U.S. military contingency operations in Vietnam. His initial training was in Singapore at the Royal Air Force Survival Training School. In Vietnam, Bob flew 150 combat support missions piloting C-123 aircraft. This was at a critical time when the Army and Air Force were in the process of developing capabilities and responsibilities for aerial resupply and ground support operations.

After leaving active duty in the Air Force, Bob served as an airline Pilot with Continental Airlines. He began as a co-pilot on military contract flights from Los Angeles to Southeast Asia, and advanced quickly to become a captain in four years. In addition to flying, he served as the Continental Airlines representative to the U.S. Airline Pilots Association (ALPA), at the time the largest pilots' union. He was also elected to serve on ALPA's executive board. His efforts were credited with improving labor-management relations throughout the airline industry. In 1978, he was taken off of flight status due to illness, but continued to serve as Continental's representative to ALPA. Bob passed away on 22 March 1981, from colon cancer.

Footnote from the 50 year yearbook – "During one of Bob's confinements, GA Bradley visited the Academy and was invited to see his old room – thought to be across the hall from Bob's. In preparation for the General's visit, all unauthorized items were temporarily moved to Bob's room. When shown the prepared room the General indicated that was not his room, his was the one across the hall. The official party, led by MG Westmorland, then walked in on Bob in tee shirt, shorts, and feet on his desk. He was reading Playboy, surrounded by magazines, toaster, popcorn popper, and unfolded laundry. It didn't look good, but the Five Star saved the day by saying – "Now this is how I remember it."