



Robert W. Stephens

December 23, 1942 - September 11, 2021

Robert W. Stephens, 78, of Cape Girardeau, passed away Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021 at Saint Francis Medical Center.

He was born Dec. 23, 1942 in Paterson, New Jersey to the late William and Agnes Bauer Stephens.

Robert and Christine Barry were married March 27, 1965. She preceded him in death Oct. 5, 2006.

He proudly served his country in the US Air Force, traveling the world in war and peacetime. He served several tours of duty in Vietnam and was stationed in Europe, Thailand, the Philippines, Korea, Georgia, Utah, Hawaii, New Mexico and too many other places to keep track of. His great love, other than family and his God, was airplanes. If you wouldn't at least pretend to love airplanes as much as he did he really wouldn't have much to say to you.

He lived a long life, and saw and did just about everything he could have wanted to.

Robert was a member of St. Mary's Cathedral, Knights of Columbus 1111, and Missouri Civil Air Patrol.

He is survived by his sons, Rob (Joan) Stephens of Jackson and David (Sherry) Stephens of Cape Girardeau; daughter, Christine (Klaus) Mueller of Cape Girardeau; grandchildren, Katherine (Travis) Roth of Friedheim, Melissa Stephens of Jackson, Sarah (Robert) Hendrix of Cape Girardeau, Joy (Ben) Winter of Kansas City, Miles Mueller of Cape Girardeau, and Rebecca Keene of Cape Girardeau; great-grandchildren, Charlotte, Nathan, and Leah Roth of Friedheim; brother, John Stephens of New Jersey.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Christine, and a brother, Bill Stephens.

Visitation will be Wednesday from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel. Funeral Mass will follow at 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral with Rev. Allan Saunders officiating.

Burial with full military honors will be at St. Mary Cemetery.

Rules to Live and Work By

1. You can only function to the level to which you have been trained.
2. We can only do so much.
 - 2a. I will only do so much.
3. Someone else's failure to plan is not a reason to panic.
4. There are some things over which we have no control.
5. You have three choices: good, fast, or cheap. Pick one.
6. We have been doing so much with so much for so long, now we are expected to do everything with nothing forever.
7. We will leave at the end of the shift.
8. I will be paid for all hours worked.
9. If you're not going to like the answer, don't ask the question.

Give 'em hell, Dad.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary Cemetery

1101 Perry Avenue
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **15**. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel

Funeral Mass

SEP **15**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Cathedral Church

Tribute Wall

RA

“ Robert was a weekly regular at IMO’s Pizza. He would get a small cheese pizza and a drink. He would sit and read his book until his food came out. He gave all the people that were new and training, a list of his “rules”. Him and another regular customer would meet up and Bob would tell him all about airplanes. He will definitely be missed. Rest In Peace Robert!

Ryan Austin - September 20, 2021 at 08:23 PM

JB

“ I am so sorry to hear of Bob's passing. He was my beautiful sister, Christine's, husband until her passing. I send my love to all Bob and Christines family. Rest in peace dear Bob with Christine.

Jeanne Barry - September 13, 2021 at 06:08 PM

JC

Walked around the track many times with Bob at Fitness Plus until COVID. He talked about family and airplanes. He always enjoyed selling tickets to the Friday Night Fish Dinners. Bob also liked swimming as long as there wasn't anyone near him in his lane. He mellowed as he grew older. He was a good friend.

Jan Chamberlain - September 13, 2021 at 10:41 PM

JC

Loved the Rules to work by!

Judi Coleman - September 14, 2021 at 05:26 PM

TM

Our family knew Mr. Stevens from Civil Air Patrol. Bob was always taking us to the airport to tour the plans. He was so generous with his time, knowledge and memories. Mr. Stephens has left a lasting impression of aviation and kindness to the “Merrick “ family.
Tina Merrick and Payton Merrick

Tina Merrick - June 11, 2022 at 11:25 AM