



## Robert Browning

May 17, 2022

Robert Browning, 77, of Fort Collins, CO, passed away on May 17, 2022. Bob was born to Robert and Dorothy Browning in Queens, New York. After attending the University of Rochester, where he met the love of his life, Susan and received a Bachelor of Economics, Bob joined the United States Air Force. Bob and Susan were married and spent the next 21 years as an Air Force family. Bob served in the Vietnam War as a C-130 rescue pilot, where he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Throughout his life, his sense of service and duty never ceased. Bob and Susan retired to Fort Collins. During their 34 years here, their desire to give back to their community led to their many volunteer activities. Bob began his volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity, where he eventually became both president and chief of construction. After becoming involved in construction of the first four Habitat homes, Bob designed and along with Susan supervised construction of the next eight homes. This work included selection and mentoring of families chosen to receive homes, with the goal of helping them become successful homeowners.

Additionally, Bob served as a member and eventually chairperson of the Fort Collins Affordable Housing Board and subsequently became chairperson of the Community Development Block Grant Commission. Bob and Susan served the community as Fort Collins Police Department Victim's Advocates for seven years. Bob became a passionate volunteer motorman for the Fort Collins Municipal Railway Society (the Fort Collins Trolley), and over the

course of 18 years, was integral to its operation and the training of others to operate the historic trolley. He served as president of the organization for the last four years.

Bob is survived by his wife of 54 years, Susan, of Fort Collins, CO, daughters Jennifer (Dean) Hughes, of Broomfield, CO, and Rebecca (Brian Floyd) Browning-Floyd, of Wellington, CO, and grandchildren Bailey, Nicholas, Madison, Zachary, and Brandon.

Bob is preceded in death by his parents and brother.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that any donations be sent to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation in his honor, by going to [www.t2t.org](http://www.t2t.org) or by calling (718)-987-1931.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Browning*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Oh, so sad. Bob was the super on my Habitat home here in Fort Collins Colorado. Susan and Bob believed in me. We built that house together. Thank you, Bob and Susan. It was a new beginning for me and my children. He and Habitat enabled me to raise my children in our space. I will always remember those years. It is hard to accept this. God speed Bob.*

**Kathy Grier** - May 29, 2022 at 11:27 PM



“ *The Buckley SFB military Retiree Activities Office (RAO) would like to offer our sincere condolences and our gratitude for Mr. Robert Browning's distinguished service to our country in the US Air Force. If you would like help with any matters related to casualty assistance, Defense Finance & Accounting Service, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), Veterans Affairs (VA), etc. you can contact our office on Buckley SFB at 720-847-6693. The RAO is staffed by volunteers, all military retirees themselves, and our sole purpose is to provide assistance to any military retirees and surviving spouses/family members with anything related to their military service and/or benefits, in particular during difficult times such as this. We are deeply sorry for your loss.*

*Steve Young  
Lt Col, USAF, Ret  
Director, Buckley SFB RAO*

**Debra Paradeis** - May 24, 2022 at 02:05 PM

LH

“ We could never have asked for a better neighbor than Bob Browning! Such a kind, caring and hilariously funny man that would always do anything and everything he could to help others. We have since moved from Colorado and are no longer neighbors but we are heartbroken that he is no longer with us!

Susan - May God Bless you and your family and may he keep you in peace!

Sending our love to you!

Lynda and Jay Hopper



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Lynda and Jay Hopper - May 23, 2022 at 01:14 PM

“ A good friend once said that people come into your life for a reason, a season, or for a lifetime. Bob was one of those rare "lifetime" friends. When I told Susan I wanted to write some remembrances for this site, I had no idea how hard that would be; not that I didn't know what to say, but rather what to leave out. I first met Bob in 1985 when we were assigned to the same Air Force office at Ramstein AB, Germany. He was my boss there, yet he treated me as an equal. Since I was new to the job, Bob acted as my mentor and often went with me as I met with my counterparts in other NATO countries. We had quite a few adventures together during those trips, including being at an Inn in Mons, Belgium when the Challenger exploded and multiple trips to European Command Headquarters. Later, after I got a little more experience, Bob included me in a group negotiating an agreement with Israel, one of the highlights of our Air Force service where we saw sights not typically seen by the average tourist. Bob was the perfect division chief. He was fiercely loyal to his people and frequently ran interference for us with the command's higher-ups. As has been previously noted, Bob had quite a sense of humor. He had a million stories and knew even more jokes. My wife at the time was an amputee and Bob called her "99 Klop" after the joke "What does a centipede with an artificial leg coming down the hall sound like? Answer, 99 Klop." My wife always laughed when he told that because it was always in fun and never malicious. One of Bob's favorite places was the Rod and Gun Club where he was a member, and we often stopped in there after a trip to Army Headquarters in Heidelberg. He knew everyone there and everyone knew and respected him. Fast forward a few years, we both retired from the service, and I was living in Alabama. My wife had died unexpectedly and after the funeral, when Bob knew I would be all alone, he flew from Colorado to spend a few days with me. We talked, reminisced, and fished, although in truth we fed the mosquitoes more than caught fish. Spending that time with him meant more to me than anyone ever knew and helped me immeasurable in dealing with my traumatic loss. Fast forward again another 15 years or so, Bob and Susan visited my new wife Lynda and I in Alabama en route to

*another destination. Timing for this visit wasn't great as I had the flu and we ended up spending most of the night in a storm shelter under my house as multiple tornados passed us by. Bob made sure to tell all our mutual friends not to visit me as I would make them spend the night in a concrete room under the house sitting on 5 gallon buckets turned upside down and drinking warm beer. There is no doubt, Bob was one of those rare "friends for a lifetime" and I shall sorely miss him. I wish I could have been there for him as he was for me in my time of need. May the Lord truly bless Susan and their extended family during this time of loss and grief.*

*Larry and Lynda Duffy  
Rutherfordton, NC*

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**Larry Duffy** - May 23, 2022 at 11:26 AM

PB

“ I was on an afternoon at Landsberg AB in Bavaria in the year 1985 when Bob and I met for the first time. We were both working on a USAF - GAF project and expected a C-130 from the US Reserve for a common exercise. It was one of those magical moments. You somebody for the first time and you are friends within a couple of seconds. Like another miracle this friendship extended it on our first family visit to both families as well and has lasted till today and will continue.

Even when we both left the Air Forces and retired we met on a regular basis for common journeys and excursions on both sides of the pond. From visiting the Invasion Beaches in Normandy together and commemorating together the dead of World War II - to cruises and tours - we never lost contact and we never wavered in our friendship.

The last tour together was a 14 day cruise on the Danube and fortunately we did not know that this would be our last one. The advancing age and then Covid19 hindered all the plans we still had.

Now a wonderful person has reached the end of the trail after an exiting and full life. We only can look back to all the memories and say thank you for sharing it with us. This will make the loss just a bit easier but still the gap will always be there.

We will miss his often hidden humor and to the point remarks about any discussed subject and naturally the the long evenings over a couple of good drinks.

Dear Susan and the whole family please accept our condolences and find the strenght to overcome this loss by being thankful for the wonderful years together. He has reached the destination we all will reach sooner or later.

Dear friend rest in peace.

Peter and Waltraud Briegel from Landsberg/Germany  
(LtCol rtd GAF)

Peter Briegel - May 23, 2022 at 06:40 AM

PB

“ I met Bob at the Airbase of Landsberg in Southern Germany in 1985. We were preparing a joint exercise of US and GAF transport units and he was my counterpart from the US side. One of the most amazing things happened. We hit it off on the spot. Shortly after the Browning family visited us and the same happened. Since then we have shared a huge amount of common visits and journeys on both sides of the pond. Visiting the Invasion coast in Normandy together, traveling in the US and Europe - specially Berlin and Dresden directly after the fall of the wall. Cruises in Alaska and the Danube and naturally mutual visits in our homes in Colorado and Bavaria. I could go on but that would still not do credit to the great friendship we have shared for so many years. A wonderful person has reached his final destination, a man full of optimism, joy in life, social care for others and a dry sometimes hidden humor that made you roar with laughter. After our Danube cruise in 1916 we were continued making plans for our next adventure together, but the older age and then Covid19 prevented us realizing them. Waltraud and I and our whole family send our deepest commiserations and regards to the Browning family. A remarkable man has left us and we will keep him in our thoughts and memories as long as we are allowed to stay on this wonderful planet where we have shared so much together. We sincerely hope that we will stay in contact and are always available to share consolation, help and specially memories.  
Rest in peace dear friend.  
Peter and Waltraud Briegel  
(LtCol rtd GAF)

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Peter Briegel - May 22, 2022 at 04:13 AM

GU

“ Dear Sue and Family. Remembering the wonderful times spent with you and Bob always filled with laughter and kindness. Sending you my thoughts, strength and the biggest hug I can manage virtually.



Gudrun - May 22, 2022 at 03:44 AM

MM

“ Bob Browning, thinking of him makes me smile. Bob and I spent many afternoons discussing life and its mysteries, while I sold tokens at the trolley depot. The time spent passed smoothly and memorably. The time was filled with laughter because of Bob's solid sense of humor. I loved hearing stories of his travels with Susan, the time he flew in Vietnam and the accomplishments of his family. When I think of the trolley, Bob always comes to mind and Susan with their grandchildren running the depot. I will miss our conversations. Bob's death hits close to home; we discussed how the passing of one of us would affect the life of the remaining spouse after a lifetime together. Tom and I pray for strength and love for Susan and her family. Good bye dear friend.  
Tom and Marsha Mulrone

martsha mulrone - May 21, 2022 at 09:34 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Goes Funeral Care & Crematory - May 20, 2022 at 12:11 PM