



## Robert James Fields

September 21, 1943 - October 11, 2022

Robert James Fields (Bob) was born on September 21st 1943 in Pasadena California. He passed peacefully with wife at his side Tuesday October 11th 2022 in Henrico Doctors Hospital Virginia at the age of 79.

He is survived by his wife, Pauline, son Matthew, son Benjamin and brother Stephen Fields, numerous California cousins and friends from his time in Blacksburg teaching at VT. He and his childhood friend Robert Woelfel aka Womp began a lifelong friendship based on being devoted fans of Elvis and rock music. Together with other friends going to the Southern California discos like the The Broadside , Cinnamon Cinder and Whiskey a Go.

Bob grew up in Southern California in a time where orange groves were a common part of the scene in the suburbs of Los Angeles. He was always grateful to be a part of early California and would remember fondly smelling the smudge pots (heating pots) that where placed in the orange groves between the trees when it got a little chilly. After finishing his early education, he went on and earned an undergraduate degree at Long Beach State.

After undergraduate school Bob was called into military service. The Army took him to Vietnam for the duration of his tour of duty. Due to his naturally leisurely ways he earned the nick name Flash.

Upon returning home to California. Bob and Pauline started their life together

going first to Westport Conn. Bob arriving in the dead of winter without a warm coat . Pauline followed shortly thereafter and together they started to learn about married life on the East coast. Matthew was born in Connecticut the following year.

Bob started his teaching career at The Famous Artist School in Westport Conn. Realizing more education was in order he went on to graduate school in Bloomfield Hills Michigan. Soon after he was hired to teach at Memphis State. Happy to be near the home of Elvis his time at Memphis State went by quickly (Benjamin was born In Memphis). He was next hired as an assistant professor at Virginia Tech in the fledgling art department. Teaching drawing and painting he eventually was given the opportunity to start a commercial art program which included graphic design . One of his earliest and favorite projects in Blacksburg was the murals he had his students painted on the town businesses. Bob loved working with his students and over many years formed lasting friendships with some of them. Mentoring many and helping them out in the workforce as much as he could. He was as proud of his students' work as his own. Bob retired from Virginia Tech in 2009 and was given the Professor Emeritus of Art and Design designation.

Bob loved to paint and draw. Water color was his chosen media and he was a member of the National Watercolor Society. He was often honored through juried exhibitions. His childhood hobby of collecting baseball cards became an obsession and he continued collecting . In the same area of interest, he read baseball statistics fervently everyday keeping track of his favorite teams and players. He could recite a wealth of baseball facts and trivia to anyone interested. Usually that would be his brother Steve in California for long conversations on the phone. He was a very loyal San Francisco Giants fan. Another favorite pastime for Bob was thrift shopping. He prided himself on not buying anything retail. He was a very talented thrifter with excellent taste. Whenever he made a trip to a new state he would seek out a flea market or

thrift shop and sometimes add a new treasure to his diverse collection of objects.

Bob is and will be deeply missed and remembered with love by his family and friends.

Funeral Arrangements have been made through MCCoy Funeral Home Blacksburg.

The family requests funeral arrangements remain private and in lieu of flowers please consider planting a tree in his memory.

# Tribute Wall

LM

“ *I am so sorry you've gone - you taught me a lot, and I thank you.*

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**Leslie Mason** - April 29 at 05:38 PM

RN

“ *How could not remember bob may have had the greatest collection of Elvis records*

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**roger nelson** - December 09, 2022 at 01:29 AM

RN

“ *Bob Woefel said it all for our friends as we grew up together. Hide and seek street football and baseball I lost touch when I started my baseball career most thank full we had a long phone call not long before he was taken from us*

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**roger nelson** - December 09, 2022 at 01:23 AM

“ It's not easy to encapsulate Bob's impact on my life. I first knew of Bobby Fields (later Bob, then Bo) when we met across the driveway when he was six and I was five. We got older together but never really grew up, to borrow a song lyric from Jimmy Buffett. We avidly followed the L.A. Rams, traded baseball cards, collected 45rpm records, absorbed Harvey Kurtzman's 11-issue-only Humbug magazine (especially appreciating its cartoonists like Jack Davis), played Over-the-Line baseball and Two-on-Two and Passing Game football up the street and in the street. We were serious competitors but were at our best when on the same team and I managed to sling it to him. He could run one heck-of-a pass pattern and had great hands.

He was a budding cartoonist as an eleven year old. Somewhere in my storage locker I have an early creative offering of a defensive football team lineup where he drew the furthest defensive back, barely visible, as the "chickenback." Bob was great at coining words and name parodies. When his brother related a nightmare to him, he drew a humorous strip called the Adventures of Poochie and Corkeen"--who were the dream's principals.

Early-on, when we got old enough to go to teenage night clubs, Bo not only dressed best, fashioned his "crop" (as we called our hair styles); but was an amazing free-form dancer. At one time, he drove a now-classic 1957 retractable hardtop convertible Ford that his car dealer Uncle Mitt found for him.

Although we lost regular contact for a few years during our respective Vietnam services and directly afterward, we again got into regular rhythm. We had good memories and what I didn't remember until prompted, he did; and vice versa.

In our last conversation, he mentioned how unusual it was for friends to stay in touch over so many decades. Robert James Fields made it easy to want to.

**Bob Woelfel** - December 06, 2022 at 12:54 AM

BP

“ Thank you to all friends and family who share memories of Bob here .We miss him so much.We are greatfull for the multitude of memories to carry with us going forward.  
Pauline

**Bob's wife Pauline** - November 17, 2022 at 04:24 AM

TM

“ So sorry to hear of Bob's journey to another dimension.... it's been so very long since we were in the same geographic zone, as kids in California, at the Maguire family annual Christmas parties. May he be in a place of eternal peace.

**Terrill Maguire** - November 06, 2022 at 12:53 PM

TC

“ To Bob's family, Pauline, Matthew and Benjamin, I will sincerely miss Bob as both a friend and a close talented colleague. I will always remember and cherish Bob's sense of humor, creative nature, and a deep love for the aesthetics of clothing, home, art & design and life. Our time over the past years spent teaching and working and collaborating together are memories that I will revisit forever. My deepest condolences... T. Truman Capone

**T. Truman Capone** - October 19, 2022 at 11:23 AM

SK

“ The guys at Price's Service Center will miss talking baseball with Bob.

**Steve, Robert, Kevin** - October 18, 2022 at 02:13 PM

RK

“ *He was a good colleague and friend and I will miss him very much.* ”

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**Raymond Kass** - October 17, 2022 at 05:29 PM