



Robert Douglas Swartley

January 8, 1937 - July 23, 2016

Robert (Bob) Douglas Swartley passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of July 23, 2016 with his son, Matthew by his side. He was 79 years old.

Robert was born in San Luis Obispo on January 8, 1937 to Raymond and Mabel Swartley. However he lived most of his life in the Napa Valley.

He graduated from St. Helena High School and then joined the Army, where he served on the US Army Pistol Team. He was a Sharpshooter.

After the Army he attended Colorado Gun School of Trades to learn gunsmithing. After working for Griffin & Howe in New York, where he learned engraving he went on to become a world renowned Master Engraver.

He was married to Norma Swartley who preceded him in death in 2011. He had one son, Matthew (Denise), one Granddaughter, Jordan and one Grandson, Owen, whom he loved dearly.

Robert was preceded in death by his beloved parents—Raymond and Mabel Swartley, beloved Wife—Norma Swartley, and sister—Ramona Boaz.

Robert is survived by his beloved Son—Matthew (Denise) Swartley, Grandchildren—Jordan and Owen Swartley, Brother, Ron Swartley and many treasured relatives and friends.

He was loved greatly and will be missed. A memorial service will be held at Napa Community Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1108 G Street, Napa on Saturday, July 30 at 2pm.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL **30**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (PT)

Napa Community Seventh-Day Adventist Church
1105 G Street
Napa, CA 94558

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Douglas Swartley*

September 29, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ *Robert Douglas Swartley*

September 29, 2022 at 02:55 PM



“ *Matt I just want to say Bob loved to tell me about his son he was very proud of you and your wife and kids. The hours and days spent hiking and talking were the best. I was in awe of his skill as all who knew him were .We had a lot of plans, hopefully we will be able to carry out some of them in a different time and a different place where there's a tree he really wants to see the tree of life.*
LeRoy

LeRoy Churches - June 02, 2017 at 11:04 PM



“ *Was saddened to discover that Bob had passed away. We were both attending the Colorado School of Trades in Lakewood , Colorado at the same time. We both lived on the east side of Denver and I would swing by his boarding house and pick him up to go to school. We did this for several months until I moved closer to school. Everyone was interested in watching him work at engraving after he started to really begin concentrating on that line. A good friend in school but as these events progress our ways parted. My condolences to his family and friends.*
Frederick Funke

Frederick R Funke - April 05, 2017 at 08:03 PM

RI

“ *Richard "dead Eye Dick" Ipsen lit a candle in memory of Robert Douglas Swartley*



Richard "dead eye dick" Ipsen - August 04, 2016 at 06:14 PM



“ *The Neus (Evelyn Neu, Beverly Neu Wendel, Dave and Charann Neu) send our sincere condolences to Matt and the rest of the Swartley family.*

Charann Neu - July 30, 2016 at 07:52 PM

CN

“ *The Neus (Evelyn Neu, Beverly Neu Wendel, Dave and Charann Neu) send their sincere condolences to Robert and his family.*

Charann Neu - July 30, 2016 at 06:52 PM

CB

“ Bob was a founding charter member of the Firearms Engravers Guild of America (FEGA). He was also a Certified Master. Having begun his engraving career in 1957, Bob was one of the senior practitioners of the difficult and demanding art. Along with the ornamentation of firearms, Bob was renowned for engraved plates from which art prints and wine labels were pulled.

Bob's work was sought after by collectors and admired by his fellow engravers, worldwide. He had a reputation as a fine gentleman who happily offered advice and encouragement to other engravers of all skill levels.

Bob's biography and images of his work have been featured in numerous magazine articles as well as several books about gun engraving. I first corresponded with Bob in 1979 while writing American Engravers. Thereafter, we met at guild meetings. In the small world of hand engravers, Bob was a celebrity, nevertheless, he was always humble and friendly.

A brief obituary will be in the upcoming issue of The Engraver magazine to be followed by a full feature article in a future edition. To see comments from the hand engraving community visit The Engraver's Cafe at this link: <http://www.engraverscafe.com/showthread.php?21369-Robert-D.-Swartley>

I offer my sincere condolences to Matthew and his family at this sad time.

*C. Roger Bleile
FEGA Historian*

C. Roger Bleile - July 30, 2016 at 06:13 PM