

Robert Lee Varilek



Robert "Bob" Lee Varilek passed away peacefully of natural causes, surrounded by family on March 13, 2021, at St Martin's Village in Rapid City; he had been residing there for the past few years. Bob was 86 years old.

Robert was born at home in Charles Mix County, SD, on January 29, 1935, the son of Joe O. and Ruth A. (Glynn) Varilek. He grew up in several South Dakota towns and graduated from high

school in Custer. After a stint in the US Army and the US Naval Academy, Bob returned to South Dakota where he attended South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, and later became a top Kraft food salesman. While working in Rapid City, he met Barbara Kuckleburg, who was working at a bank and attending the National College of Business. On June 7, 1958, the two were married in Barbara's hometown of Vivian, SD, before relocating to Lincoln in order for Bob to attend the University of Nebraska law school. After receiving his Juris Doctor in 1961, they returned to South Dakota where Robert practiced law, first in Custer, then in Rapid City. They remained in Rapid City where they raised their nine children.

Bob loved to sail, fish, hunt, golf, garden, and travel with family and friends. One of the highlights of his life was sailing to Hawaii from California with three of his friends.

Robert and Barbara are survived by their nine children: Lisa Volk, Blair Sullivan, Timothy Varilek, Susan Laurenti, Robert C. Varilek, Julie Backes, Andrew Varilek, Nathan Varilek and Margaret Varilek; 27 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren; two brothers, Ron and Dick Varilek; and one sister, Laura Lubley.

Bob is preceded in death by his parents, wife Barbara; and eldest sister, Dorothy Barrow.

Special thank you to other family and friends who also celebrated Bob's vibrant life and to his brother-in-law, Michael "Mick" Penticoff who never missed his birthday.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.



In Loving Memory Of

Robert Lee Varilek

January 29, 1935 - March 13, 2021



*A few who have watched me sail away
Will miss my craft from the busy bay;
Some friendly barques that were anchored near,
Some loving souls that my heart held dear,
In silent sorrow will drop a tear;*

*But I shall have peacefully furled my sail
In mooring sheltered from storm and gale
And greeting the friends who have sailed before
O'er the unknown sea to the unknown shore. -- Andrea Jackson*



In Loving Memory

Robert Lee Varilek

Born

January 29, 1935
Charles Mix County, South Dakota

Died

March 13, 2021
Rapid City, South Dakota

Committal Service

Friday, May 21 2021, at 10:30 am
Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiant

Father Andrzej Wyrostek
Right of Committal with Final Commendation

Military Honors

Sturgis Veterans Honor Guard
Navy Honor Guard