

Robert Joseph Mettler

January 3, 1935 - July 15, 2013

Robert J. Mettler passed away peacefully surrounded by his family July 15 at St. Vincent Mercy Hospital.

Robert was born on January 3, 1935. He was a standout baseball pitcher and 1952 graduate of Central Catholic High School. He earned his B.A. in journalism from Toledo University.

Robert served his country for more than 14 years in the U. S. Navy. Voluntary assignment to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 9, Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam from 1967-1969 was the service of which he was most proud. Robert was granted an Honorable Discharged in 1970.

Robert's military service would forever change and define his life. He became an advocate for Vietnam veterans in an era in which they were often ostracized. Before long, his advocacy would include all veterans and the issues important to veterans. Robert was appointed to the Commission of Lucas County Veterans Services, but his drive to work in the trenches with his comrades eventually led him to resign that position in favor of becoming the organizations Executive Director.

In addition to caring for veterans needs on a daily basis, Robert skillfully positioned his office as a platform from which he could promote pro-veteran's issues to government agencies and elected officials. Robert worked tirelessly on anything he believed a veteran deserved or needed, regardless of whether it aided all veterans, or a single veteran in need.

Rather than diminishing his impact, his retirement in 2004 had the opposite

effect. Absent the responsibility and hours devoted to administrative duties, Robert now had time to parlay his many relationships with government officials and elected leaders into “cut-the-red-tape” access to those with the authority to effect change. Robert always found a way to navigate through, around, or sometimes over anyone or anything between him his goal to better the lives of veterans.

Robert spent every day of his life in service to his country, his community and his beloved fellow veterans. He never missed an opportunity to don his uniform or pull on khakis and combat boots to represent veterans at rallies, protests, parades and other events. He was enthusiastic in even his most difficult yet gratifying role, serving in Honor Guards called on to salute and pay respect, on behalf of all veterans, to a fallen brother being laid to rest.

Robert served numerous community organizations including: Vietnam Veterans of America, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, the Board of the Area Office on Aging, Homeless Veterans Task Force, Consortium of Care Task Force and Sister Cities Toledo – Da Nang RVN Study Group.

Robert was also President Emeritus of the University of Toledo Alumni Association --University College Affiliate, a member of the Walbridge Park Advisory Board and a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish.

Robert is preceded in death by his parents, William and Evelyn Mettler. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Nancy, and children Michael Mettler, Michelle (William) Mohrbach, James Mettler, Robert T. (Diane) Mettler, John (Laura) Mettler, Joseph Mettler, Susan Mettler (-Sugg) and Jamie Mettler. He is also survived by 15 cherished grandchildren. Robert was looking forward to welcoming his first great-grandchild, due any day, as well as the upcoming nuptials of a granddaughter.

Visitation will be at Coyle Funeral Home 1770 S Reynolds Rd on Friday July 19, 2013 from 1:00 – 7:00 p.m. where a Scripture Service will be held at 6:00 p.m. Funeral services will begin in the mortuary at 9:30 am Saturday July 20, with the Funeral Mass to follow at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church at 10:00

a.m. Memorial contributions can be made to the Disabled American Veterans or Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish. Robert's family would like to acknowledge and thank the caring staff of St. Vincent Mercy Hospital's Coronary Care Unit, whose compassionate care ensured his final hours were painless and peaceful.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2224 Dorr St.
Toledo, OH 43607

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 19. 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral and Cremation Services
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614
(419) 865-1295
<https://www.coylefuneralhome.com>

Funeral

JUL 20. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
2255 Central Grove
Toledo, OH 43614

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Robert Mettler



Susan Mettler - August 17, 2013 at 10:59 PM



“ Dear Nancy and family
May you find comfort in treasured memories.

Ceylon and Scott Smith

Ceylon Smith - July 20, 2013 at 05:26 PM



“ My sympathies Jim to you and your family. Visiting and growing up in the Mettler household was always a treat and your Dad was a big part of that, He was so interesting and smart but what I remember most, was his quick wit and outstanding humor. I always felt better an enlightened after our conversations. He was a very fine man. He will be missed. Take care and God bless. Kevin Szenderski

Kevin Szenderski - July 19, 2013 at 10:03 PM



“ Our hearts go out to you, he will be so truly missed.
Love, Allison, John and Aria

Allison Irons - July 19, 2013 at 11:01 AM

TC

“ To the Family & Friends of Robert Mettler:

Please accept my heartfelt condolences on Mr. Mettler's passing.

May God be with you all during this time of great sorrow.

Tom Crothers

Tom Crothers - July 19, 2013 at 09:15 AM

TW

“ Dear Bobby, so sorry to hear of the loss of your dad. Please know that Doug and I are thinking of you. Heaven can always use more angels. What a man he was!! Doug and Terri Werner

terri werner - July 18, 2013 at 09:00 PM

SM

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Susan Mettler - July 18, 2013 at 12:28 PM



“ Sweet Liberty was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph Mettler.



July 18, 2013 at 11:55 AM

LT

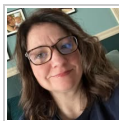
“ I hope a Bosun's pipe piped him abroad the Gates of Heaven and God said, "Well done, Thou good and faithful servant". Then Bob was led to his very special place in Heaven. I am very sorry for your family's loss. Be very proud of his accomplishments.

Louise Torgerson - July 18, 2013 at 11:51 AM

SC

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the Mettler family. Jamie, I know how much he meant to you and how he and your mother guided you through life to make you the strong individual you are today. God Bless You All.

Susie Cour-Palais - July 18, 2013 at 08:26 AM



Thank you, Susie.

Jamie Mettler - July 22, 2013 at 08:14 AM

JM

“ Deffinatly my hero. Learned everything I know from him and I'm glad I followed in his steps and joined the military

jacob mettler - July 17, 2013 at 08:35 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers are sent to the Mettler family !! Our condolences to you all on the loss of your Husband, Father, Grandfather !! May time bring comfort and healing of your sorrow !! Remember all the good things and he will stay close to your hearts !! With Love Dawn Romanchik and family

Dawn Romanchik - July 17, 2013 at 08:30 PM

AP

“ *Susan, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. We can only hope that time will bring comfort and help to heal the sorrow. With Deepest Sympathy, Dan & Amy Petro*

Amy Petro - July 17, 2013 at 04:54 PM