

In Memory of

Robert William Ruffin

May 6, 1929 - February 26, 2017

Lt. Col. Robert William Ruffin, USAF, ret., 87, of North Little Rock, passed away peacefully, surrounded by friends and loved ones on February 26, 2017.

Mr. Ruffin is survived by three children: son Robert "Dan" Ruffin and his wife Kay, daughter Lea Cook, son Steven Ruffin and his wife Brooke. He was blessed with, but leaves behind, six grandchildren: Kaitlin Hinkle, Susan Szafranski, Christopher Szafranski, Joshua Cook, Nora Ruffin, and Carter Ruffin.

He is preceded in death by his dearly loved wife Jeanne Ruffin and daughter Kathleen Szafranski. He was also predeceased by his parents Robert W. and Lea P. Ruffin.

Robert "Bob" was born in New Orleans on May 6, 1929 and attended Tulane University at the age of 16. He served in the USAF with distinction during both the Korean and Vietnam wars and participated in the Berlin Airlift and U2 pressure suit research and development. Prior to retiring, Bob was instrumental in getting training simulators for the C-130 training squadron at the Little Rock Air Force Base in Jacksonville.

Bob was an intelligent and loving man but was also harsh and disciplined. He was well-traveled, loved fiercely, and helped many people during his life time. His life left an indelible mark upon the world and on those he loved most.

The family wishes to personally thank his close friend Sammy Williams who cared for Bob during his later years, and the staff of the VA Hospital for their quality care during his last hours.

The family will hold a private service at Griffin Leggett Rest Hills. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Veterans of Foreign Wars, www.vfw.org. Online guest register at www.griffinleggettresthills.com.