

Fort Worth Star-Telegram (TX) - April 7, 2005

Deceased Name: Robert Emmet Waters

KELLER -- Robert Emmet Waters, 68, husband, father, military officer, sales manager, published author, business owner and home designer, died peacefully at home Friday, April 1, 2005.

Funeral: 11:30 a.m. Friday, April 8, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 2016 Willis Lane, Keller.
Burial: 2 p.m. in Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery.

Memorials: Vitas Hospice Charitable Fund, 2501 Parkview Dr., Suite 600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.

A modern-day Renaissance man who not only knew who he was, but also constantly learned and mastered new skills, Bob was born Oct. 29, 1936, in Yonkers, N.Y., to Samuel J. Waters and Catherine Hanley Waters. After the first semester of his junior year at the University of Notre Dame, Bob joined the medical team of Dr. Tom Dooley and served as a medic in northern Laos for six months. He was awarded a B.S. in business administration and was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force in January 1959.

Bob and the love of his life, Nancy Marguerite Smithe, were married in Chicago, Ill., on July 4, 1959. When Robert Emmet Jr. was 6 weeks old, the family was reassigned from Selfridge Air Force Base, Mich., to Evreux Air Base, France. Bob's responsibilities as a special weapons courier and air intelligence officer focused on special operations took him from Norway to India and from France to Berlin, Germany. After volunteering for the air commandos in June '63, the family relocated to Mary Esther, Fla., where Kathleen Anne was born in November.

In April 1965, Bob resigned and joined Smithe & Shanahan, Inc., a family electronics, appliance and furniture business in Chicago, Ill. Restless for enhanced challenges, Bob joined Chesebrough-Ponds in 1967 as a key account representative, marketing such brands as Q-Tips, Ponds, Cutex and Vaseline. Promoted to district manager in 1969, he relocated his family to Severna Park, Md. Later promoted to area manager for the Philadelphia, Pa., area, Bob was instrumental in the East Coast launch of Vaseline Intensive Care lotion.

In search of a more stable life, Bob formed Waters' Development Corp., an earth-moving business, with his brother, Bill, and the family moved to LaBelle, Fla., in 1974. After Bill's accidental death in 1976, Bob retained the corporation and began writing about his military experiences. Signet Books published the "American Avenger" series in 1981 under his pen name of Robert Emmett. During that period, he also designed a new family home sited on the Caloosahatchee River.

Bob joined the U.S. Postal Service and quickly moved from window clerk to a management position in quality improvement in West Palm Beach, Fla. When the opportunity arose for a promotion in 1991, Bob and Nancy moved to Annapolis, Md. Working directly for the Postmaster, Washington, D.C., Bob used his skills to troubleshoot and solve mail and labor problems throughout the 176 federal agencies in Washington, D.C., including the White House.

Desiring to be near family, when he retired in early 2001, Bob and Nancy moved to Keller and began construction of another house that he and Nancy designed. It was then that he was diagnosed with colon cancer and mastered another challenge, that of knowledgeable cancer patient involved in his own care. Bob leaves his family with a rare example of someone who remained steadfast to his religion, his nation and his family, yet lived and loved honorably and well. His intelligence, integrity and sense of humor will always be remembered by those who knew and loved him.

Survivors: His wife of 45 years, Nancy Smithe Waters; sisters, Margaret Waters Robison of St. Petersburg, Fla., and Mary Waters Morgan of Syracuse, N.Y.; children, Robert and Darlene Waters Jr., Keller, and Joseph and Kathleen Waters Baumann, Cranford N.J.; and grandchildren, Bobby, Megan and Patrick Waters, Keller, and Alex, Grace and Phillip Baumann, Cranford, N.J.

Lucas & Thompson Funeral Home

Keller, (817) 753-6800