

Eulogy  
of  
Robert Jackson Halsworth

- Robert J. Halsworth, “RJ” as his wife Mickey would call him, mostly, except when she was mad at him, and then he was “meathead” or “Jackass.” To his friends he was “**Bob**”
- Born in Indianapolis, Indiana **on September 10, 1920**, to Jackson Ray Halsworth and Marie Teresa Murt Halsworth - Bob’s mother was a second generation German. Every member of the Murt family was an artist, poet, musician or craftsman - they created their entire town in Germany;
- Bob was a student at the Indiana School of Art **from 1941 to 1942**, and photos exist of him and his brother, posing “nude” (wearing jock straps but of course), for the life drawing classes at the Art School;
- He was called to Active Duty in the U.S. Army Air Corps **on October 30, 1942**, and **On May 20, 1943**, Bob was a Second Lieutenant;
- **Departing November 3, 1943**, for the European Theater, flying a B-24;
- His mission was heavy bombardment, and Bob was shot down **on February 24, 1944**;
- He was captured and held as a Prisoner of War, North 1 Compound at Stalag Luft I, Germany;
- **On January 25, 1945**, Bob was decorated with the 1<sup>st</sup> Oak Leaf Cluster: *For exceptionally meritorious achievement, while participating in five separate bomber combat missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by these officers and enlisted men upon these occasions reflect great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States*;
- Bob was released **on June 9, 1945**, LEFT Germany, and
- He returned to the United States **on June 15**;
- Upon Bob’s return, he remained in the Army Air Corps **for one year**;
- **In December, 1945**, Bob and Mickey met at the Canary Cottage in Indianapolis, Indiana; Mickey was working at the Pure Oil Company for the Zone Manager as his Executive Secretary, and the Canary Cottage was a restaurant/bar and grill in the Pure Oil Building - **Mickey lost her hat pin and Bob was the hero who found it** - from that moment it was a marriage, through sickness and health, for richer or poorer, in good weather and bad;
- Bob was promoted to First Lieutenant **on February 9, 1946, but**;
- He didn’t reenlist in the Army Air Corps due to receiving notice of a transfer;
- Bob instead chose the Armed Services **Reserves** and went to work at the Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company in Indianapolis, Indiana - he did this because of Mickey;
- Robert J. Halsworth and Hazel Naomi Kelly were joined in Holy Matrimony **on August 31, 1946**, in Indianapolis, Indiana;
- At the time of his passing **on January 29, 2007**, Bob and Mickey were married for **sixty and one-half years** - a number to be proud of - a reality they both cherished - RJ passed and although he left this dimension, Bob did not leave Mickey behind;
- Bob and Mickey **parented four children**: William Michael Halsworth; Michele Halsworth; Roberta Lynne Halsworth; and Fred Jay Halsworth;

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- Bob was, ultimately, fired from Eli Lilly Company for blowing the whistle on practices that were clearly illegal and harmful to health;
  - Because he had remained as reservist in the Armed Services while working at Eli Lilly, he was called back to full time service to fly the Berlin Air Lift during the blockade of Berlin by the East Germans;
  - **On March 23, 1951**, Bob was once again a fully active pilot;
  - He completed Helicopter Pilot Training at Randolph AFB, Texas **in 1956**;
  - During the years of **1957 to 1960**, Bob was stationed at Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage, Alaska. He continued his education at the University of Alaska and completed his two year undergraduate work there;
  - Bob also took up the **game of golf** as a serious hobby while living in Alaska;
  - He moved to Vancouver, Washington and **on January 1, 1961**, Bob was promoted to the grade of Major;
  - Bob was decorated with the Air Force Longevity Service Award **in August, 1963**;
  - During the years of **1960 and 1964**, he attended Clark College in Vancouver, Washington and he acquired credits in zoology, anthropology, sociology, plus general studies;
  - **In 1964**, Bob was transferred to Richards-Gebaur AFB;
  - He left for Udorn, Thailand in **1965**, to set-up the Search and Rescue (SAR) Center for the USAF;
- Bob retired as a USAF Major, Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Center, MAC, Richards-Gebaur AFB, Missouri **on May 31, 1966**;
- In June, 1966**, Bob Halsworth was hired by Air America and left for Saigon, Vietnam to fly helicopters;
- Bob flew for AA from **1966 to 1972**;
- He returned to the United States **in 1972**, and it was at this time that Bob committed to the game of golf as a serious athlete. He also learned the real estate business and became a broker in Vancouver, Washington, but he was bored with real estate - not enough action, Mickey says;
- Bob and Mickey had joined the Royal Oaks Country Club in Vancouver, Washington, **in 1960**, and when they returned from Southeast Asia, having kept up their membership, Bob became an accomplished golfer;
- In 1975**, Bob learned to create golf clubs from the Pro at Royal Oaks, and he started up his own small golf club business in the Halsworth home garage;
- Bob **played pro-am golf** - he was a passionate devotee of the game - he was health conscious, and a life-long exerciser and body builder;
- When Bob suffered his first heart attack **in 1977**, everyone was shocked, but not nearly as shocked as he was;
- Bob and Mickey moved to Sun Lakes, Arizona **in 1980**;
- In 1985**, Bob suffered two heart attacks and underwent **quadruple bypass surgery**;
- He lived with Mickey in Sun Lakes from **1980 until 2002**, when they moved back to Vancouver, Washington;
- During their **22 years living in Sun Lakes**, after his bypass heart surgery, Bob was able to **play golf, work at his golf club business and honor a strict diet**;
- Bob was at home when he passed and Mickey held him in her arms as he drew his last breath.

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