

## Robert "Bob" O'Hara

Bob passed away Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> after a short battle with cancer; he was 89 years old. Bob Joined the Army Air Corps at the age of 16 at the tail end of WWII and he served as a gunner on an A26 in the Korean War. After the war he was instrumental in building one of the largest Civil Air Patrol squadrons in the state where he flew over 4,500 hours in an AT-6 on search and rescue missions. Bob's love of flying was sparked at a child. Part of Bob's legacy is a collection of some 13 or more North American AT-6s purchased from the Davis-Monthan "boneyard" near Tucson, AZ. These served the Civil Air Patrol Squadron for many years at Whiteman Airport in the San Fernando Valley. Part of that group of aircraft lives on now as part of the "Skytypers" company fleet. All through his life he owned, built or rebuilt aircraft, including a Vought F-4U Corsair and, of course, his beloved Taylorcraft. People either saw Bob flying over Georgetown in his little yellow Taylorcraft or driving his Beetle.

During his life he was one of the original Pink Panther animation artists, and was also in a few different movies including *Never So Few* and *Tora! Tora! Tora!* Bob created backdrops, scenery and props for several films, wrote episodes for the *Outer Limits* and the *Twilight Zone*, and was an accomplished artist and even modeled for a bit. For many years he had weekly art in the *Mountain Democrat* called "Behind the Wheel". He was an editor and writer for *Plane & Pilot*, and *Air Classics* magazines, and illustrated several books, comic books and coloring books. Bob and his first wife Dotty moved to Camino in 1971 where he worked for the Air National Guard.

Bob and his second wife, Anne, built a home in Georgetown in the late 70's. He quickly became one of the "gang" at the Corner Kitchen.

Bob was very proud of being one of the founding members of Chapter 512 of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) in Placerville in 1974. He helped build the hanger and planted the wonderful EAA picnic grove that we all enjoy today. Bob loved flying Young Eagles and was honored in 2018 as one of only fourteen pilots who had participated in all 25 years of the Young Eagles program. Bob never met a stranger and rarely had an unkind word about anyone. He truly loved his life.

The last few months of his life he lived with his daughter, Colleen, in Idaho. She was at his side when he passed away. Bob was preceded in death by his wife, Anne. He is survived by his two children, Colleen O'Hara and Randy O'Hara.

In lieu of flowers or cards, contributions to the EAA Chapter 512 can be made at:  
EAA Chapter 512  
3483 Airport Road  
Placerville, CA 95667

Please feel free to add photos, stories or remembrances at this link:

Dad will be greatly missed. Audios amigo and fly high.

- Colleen O'Hara