



## Robert Howard Morecock

December 21, 1934 - April 6, 2019

Robert Howard Morecock, also known as Bob by loved ones, was born December twenty first, 1934 and passed recently April sixth, 2019 at the age of 84. The cause of death was heart failure.

Bob was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He will be sorely missed by many, including his beloved wife of 61 years, Betty Jo, his three children and six grandchildren. Bob Morecock was a man who could bring any room to life with his booming laugh and the mischievous twinkle in his eye that came with it.

It's quite upsetting that God chose to take Bob so soon. But heaven has another angel now.

Bob was born in Richmond, raised in Amelia County and graduated Amelia High in 1952. He attended VMI Class of 1956 and married after completion of his junior year. Bob continued his education at VPI and graduated in 1963 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering; eventually becoming one of the Old Guard. During his early years of marriage Bob served his country with a short term of active duty in the Army followed by six years in the National Guard.

After graduation he moved his young family to Richmond to work for VDOT in the Central Office Bridge Division, and soon was on the move again as he was selected as VDOT's 1st District Bridge Engineer for VDOT's Fredericksburg District in 1966. Fredericksburg District is home to the most moveable span bridges in Virginia, which gave Bob tremendous pride. He served the Commonwealth with distinction in this capacity until he retired in 1992 after 32 years of service. Many who knew him commented that Bob was a Bridge Engineer's Bridge Engineer.

Post-VDOT he was sought after for his bridge expertise. He went to Kuwait and completed a substantial review of damage to the country's bridge infrastructure after the first Gulf War. He also went to North Dakota to work for FEMA after the Red River flood. There he

helped get fresh water to the people, and helped farmers get from one flooded field to another through the use of temporary Bridges and/or other routes. He returned to Virginia and worked on a number of bridges including the Norris Bridge over the Rappahannock River. Bob completed his bridge engineering career overseeing the construction of today's two West Point bridges, the Lord Delaware over the Mattaponi River and the Eltham Bridge over the Pamunkey River.

In retirement Bob enjoyed his hobbies – HAM radio, the water, travel, and Bob and Betty Jo's cats. Bob loved his main hobby, HAM radio. He had been “tinkering” as a HAM for over fifty years communicating with many parts of the world and helping service men and women connect with loved ones. He achieved the highest level of operator class, Amateur Extra, from the FCC and was active in a number of organizations including ARRL, WAARC, VFN, FISTS, and QRZ. In 2016 he received a certificate from the Quarter Century Wireless Association for 55 years of activity.

An avid boater, fisherman, and at times a sailor, he taught his children the love of water from an early age so that they were able to enjoy boating, swimming, and fishing as a family. He was an active member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary for many years and taught Boating Safety courses to people in and around Fredericksburg and the surrounding Counties. He and his wife had pools at several of their homes for family and friends to enjoy.

Bob also loved to travel and see different parts of the US, Canada, and beyond. Just a few days before his passing, Bob was on a cruise with his wife and daughter to and from Cuba. It's quite clear that they all had a great time on the trip, and it was absolutely the best way to end many decades of happiness and love. Bob will always be lovingly remembered by his family and friends.

Bob was active in the Presbyterian community first as a Deacon at the Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church and later as an Elder at Brett Reed Memorial Presbyterian in West Point. He had a love of God according to his only daughter Martha Eddy, “He and mother had a habit of reading the bible each morning, based on input from their church.”

Bob was a generous and loving Southern gentleman. His family was a source of great pride and priority. “I remember when I was around 5 years old,” Alexandra Eddy, his granddaughter, says, “I remember how he would always have Little Cat resting on his chest as he played computer games on his computer, or fiddled with his HAM radio. Sometimes I would wander in and wanted to lay on him, just like the cat. He would always make her move for me.”

The Morecocks had two homes, one in Mattaponi and one in Fredericksburg. It's safe to say the one in Fredericksburg, known by all as "The Land," was his favorite and thankfully, he was able to pass on to Heaven at the Land with his wife Betty Jo by his side along with one of his grandsons, Collin. He passed away in his favorite spot surrounded by family.

Bob thoroughly enjoyed his retirement in the West Point community fostering friendships through the West Point Ruritan Club activities and several times a week at the YMCA exercise classes.

Bob was predeceased by his parents Howard Mann Morecock, Jr. and Nell Grigsby Morecock. He is survived by his loving wife Betty Jo Collins Morecock, and his three children – Robert H. Morecock Jr. (and his wife Marian) of Stafford, VA, Martha Annette Morecock Eddy (and her husband Craig) of Richmond, VA, and Steven Morris Morecock (and his wife Elizabeth) of North Easton, MA. Bob was the grandfather of six: Joseph Angelo Morecock (and his wife Alex Katherine), Robert Collin Morecock, Christiane Marra Morecock, Sarah Michelle Morecock, Alexandra Nell Eddy, and Heather Alisha Morecock. He is also survived by seven first cousins, many nieces/nephews, his VDOT family, and friends from both homes. Sadly, Little Cat died one day before Bob.

The family will receive friends 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 13th at Vincent Funeral Home, 417 11th Street, West Point, VA 23181. A funeral service will be held 3 p.m. Sunday, April 14th at Brett-Reed Presbyterian Church, 29680 King William Road, West Point, VA 23181. Interment will be 1 p.m. Monday in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, VA.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to a local SPCA/Humane Society or to the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech, either on-line at <https://give.vt.edu/> , or by checks made payable to The Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc., and can be mailed to Virginia Tech Advancement (0336), Office of Gift Accounting, 902 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

# Cemetery Details

## Hollywood Cemetery

412 South Cherry St.  
Richmond, VA 23220

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 13. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Vincent Funeral Home, West Point Chapel  
417 11th St  
West Point, VA 23181

## Service

APR 14. 3:00 PM (ET)

Brett Reed Presbyterian Church  
29680 King William Avenue  
West Point, VA 23181

## Graveside Service

APR 15. 1:00 PM (ET)

Hollywood Cemetery  
412 South Cherry St.  
Richmond, VA 23220

# Tribute Wall

CJ

“ Charles & Ann Jett lit a candle in memory of Robert Howard Morecock



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**Charles & Ann Jett** - April 16, 2019 at 11:33 PM

BG

“ Betty Jo, Martha, Robert and Steven~As neighbors on Grafton Street while the children were growing up and in elementary school, we saw a lot of each other. Later I would see you all at lunch after church on Sunday. However, I have missed you in recent months and assume you were living in your second home more recently. I am sorry Bob had CHF--I suffer the same malady. It really saps your energy and ability to maintain your former schedule, making the two of you more confined than you have ever been accustomed to. My sympathies in your loss. Focus on the good times and the wonderful memories you shared together all those many years of marriage.  
Becky Butler-Guy

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**Becky Guy** - April 13, 2019 at 09:24 PM

HH

“ Prayers to Betty Jo and all of the Morecock family.  
May you "Rest in Peace" Robert Morcock.  
Hap & Gail Hazard

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**Hap Hazard** - April 13, 2019 at 12:31 PM

CB

“ Remember him well from our days at the Highway Department. Thoughts and prayers for the family.  
Carol Baker

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**Carol Baker** - April 13, 2019 at 09:37 AM

AB

“ *Ann And Brownie lit a candle in memory of Robert Howard Morecock*



**Ann and Brownie** - April 12, 2019 at 08:39 PM

AB

*We will miss him and appreciate what he did for our town. His memory will last forever.*

**Ann and Brownie** - April 12, 2019 at 08:42 PM

JT

“ *Joe Terembes lit a candle in memory of Robert Howard Morecock*



**Joe Terembes** - April 10, 2019 at 08:44 PM

JT

*Martha & Entire Morecock Family,*

*So sorry to hear of the passing of your beloved father. Please know I will have you all in my prayers during this difficult time 🙏 God's Blessings to you all .*

**Joe Terembes** - April 10, 2019 at 08:48 PM

DG

*Betty-Jo and family, thoughts and prayers are with you. David R. Gatewood*

**David R. Gatewood** - April 13, 2019 at 07:39 AM

KM

“ *Our Prayers to the Robert and the Morecock Family - the McHugh family shared many fond Memories and great times with BettyJoe & Robert and the family!! Please accept our deepest sympathies for Robert!!! Keith McHugh*



**Keith McHugh** - April 10, 2019 at 08:07 PM

AW

“ *Bob always had a warm smile when entering our Y exercise class.*

Avie Gerald Williams - April 10, 2019 at 04:16 PM

AW

“ *Avie & Gerald Williams lit a candle in memory of Robert Howard Morecock*



Avie & Gerald Williams - April 10, 2019 at 04:10 PM

RG

“ *Ross And Joyce Grenz sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert Howard Morecock*



Ross and Joyce Grenz - April 10, 2019 at 09:12 AM

RG

“ *Ross And Joyce Grenz lit a candle in memory of Robert Howard Morecock*



Ross and Joyce Grenz - April 10, 2019 at 09:09 AM

RH

“ *Ruby Harwood lit a candle in memory of Robert Howard Morecock*



Ruby Harwood - April 10, 2019 at 08:23 AM

MD

“ *Mary Ellen Davis lit a candle in memory of Robert Howard Morecock*



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**Mary Ellen Davis** - April 10, 2019 at 08:10 AM

JS

“ *Betty Jo and family - Truly my heart grieves for the loss of my dear friend, Bob. I met him about 11 years ago at the Y and shortly thereafter I met you. As a Y instructor of a class for "seniors" I had the joy of having both of you as participants in the class.....front row.....almost directly in front of me. I will miss that smiling face so very much. And truly he was a Southern Gentleman. Monday's class was quite tough, as Bob's 2 chairs (we gave him 2 chairs to place his weights and band in for convenience) sat empty. Prayerfully I hold all of you close in heart. The picture of Bob in this obituary is the exact same smile I will remember and miss tremendously. To be Absent from the World is to be Present with the Lord. God bless.*

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**Jeanie Sturtz** - April 09, 2019 at 05:37 PM