



## Robert "Bob" Vincent Russo, Sr.

August 26, 1935 - November 6, 2021

Robert ("Bob") Vincent Russo, Sr., 86, of Tallahassee, passed away on Saturday, November 6, 2021. He was married to Mary Ann (Bryant) Russo for 60 years.

Born in New York City, Bob was a 1956 graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York, where he received a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and master's degree in Management in 1957. During his three years of military service, Bob was a member of the Air Force's F-105 weapons test team at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida and at Republic Aviation in Farmingdale, N.Y. where he represented the Air Force Research and Development Command.

Upon completion of active duty in 1960, Bob joined the IBM Corporation where he worked in manufacturing, engineering, development, and marketing for over 20 years. While at IBM he authored several engineering papers and software programs and led the development of early on-line medical systems for physiological monitoring, patient care and administration. Later at IBM, he led the development and installation of the first automated teller and other banking systems, and directed marketing programs in the finance, government, education and medical industry sectors. Near the conclusion of his IBM career, Bob coordinated federal executive education programs and numerous recognition events.

In 1981 Bob left IBM and, with a small group of like-minded Christian brothers, helped form Orange Systems, a Gaithersburg, MD, computer technology company, where he worked for 16 years as Vice President and Director, leading business systems, both federal and commercial user support and maintenance and network training divisions. Bob briefly retired in late 1997, but returned to work in January 1998 as Senior Vice President for Professional Education at Launchspace, Inc., a space technology company headquartered in Bethesda, MD. After 16 enjoyable years of guiding the training for thousands of space professionals world-wide, Bob retired from Launchspace in December of 2014.

In 2018, living in a large home in Mt. Airy, MD, with too much property to handle, Bob and Mary Ann downsized to a patio home in the senior community at Homewood of Frederick, MD. In 2021, Bob and Mary Ann moved to Tallahassee, FL to live near their son, Robert "Vince" Russo and his family.

Bob enjoyed baseball, particularly as an active player in the Ponce de Leon senior league, where he played an enthusiastic second base until age 65. He was an avid reader of history and spy thrillers and wrote a series of unpublished adventure books for his grandchildren.

Bob was an only child and had no surviving relatives other than his immediate family. Bob had a steadfast faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord. In addition to his wife, survivors include his children, Robert Jr (wife Jackie), Michael (wife Kathy), and Robin (husband Paul O'Donnell) and his grandchildren, Stone and Josie Russo, Matt Russo and Bobby, Tommy, Erin, and Audrey O'Donnell. He loved the many friends who worshipped with him over 45 years as members of Mother of God Community in Gaithersburg, MD, Triumph of the Cross Community in Frederick, MD, and St. Katherine Drexel Catholic

Church in Frederick, MD.

The family will receive friends from 11:30AM until 12:00 noon on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 624 Miccosukee Road, with the Funeral Mass immediately following at noon. The service will be livestreamed at <https://m.facebook.com/BSCtallahassee/>. Interment will be at 2:00PM at Tallahassee National Cemetery, 5015 Apalachee Parkway.

Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) is assisting the Russo family with their arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Tallahassee National Cemetery

5015 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL 32311

# Previous Events

## The Family Will Receive Friends

NOV 10. 11:30 AM (ET)

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church  
624 Miccosukee Rd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

## Funeral Mass

NOV 10. 12:00 PM (ET)

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church  
624 Miccosukee Rd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

# Tribute Wall

BK

“ I was fortunate to have Bob as my incredible manager at IBM from 1963 to 1976. And, while we were living in the DC area, Bob and Mary Ann and their boys spent time with me, my wife Phyllis (1936-2011), and our two daughters doing fun things on the weekends. I look forward to all of us in heaven some day. Bob Kukla (Georgetown, TX)

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**Bob Kukla** - November 06, 2022 at 07:59 PM

EG

“ Dear Mary Ann, I share your sadness but also the assurance that Bob is happily at home with the Lord Jesus whom he loved and honored with all that he was and had. When I think of Bob I remember his smile and encouragement , his joy, sense of humor and his love. And I am grateful for his prayers for us, and that I and my family shared life with him I send my love to you and all your beautiful children and grandchildren. You are in my prayers. I treasure you and your family.

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**Elaine Guidry** - November 10, 2021 at 04:08 PM

SR

“ Dear Mary Ann, Robin, and Family,  
Mike and I were saddened to hear about Bob's passing. We remember the years at Ft. Belvoir (but not the commute!) You are all in our prayers.  
In Christ,  
Mike and Shaunmarie Rega

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**Shaunmarie Rega** - November 10, 2021 at 01:33 PM

FW

“ Dear Mary Ann,

*I was very sorry to hear of Bob's death. He was and is a very good man, who loved Jesus. I have remembered him and all of your family in my Masses and prayers.*

*My Jesus bless you in this time of sorrow.*

*Take care. Fr. Tom Weinandy*

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**Fr. Thomas Weinandy** - November 10, 2021 at 09:34 AM

GS

“ Time and space do not permit me to tell the stories of the many wonderful times our families enjoyed together (the Russo family and the Simonds family) while our children were growing up...such stories!! Bob was so intelligent, had such a QUICK wit, was organized, and always steady. But he began to noticeably become alive in the spirit and TO The Spirit during the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and life lived as part of The Mother of God Community! What wonderful years! What wonderful spiritual fruit blossomed and matured during those years and all the years since. The friendships made in the Community beginning in the 1970s were true covenant relationships and endure to this day. Bob was faithful to his Lord and the Church,, his marriage and family, to prayer, to the study of The Scriptures, and to give generously of his time, resources and help in any way needed. He was also known to love the Yankees and pasta.

*Numerous Scriptures come to mind when thinking about Bob's life and physical death, but I will paste two paraphrased verses that come to mind:*

*Romans 14:7 The Mirror Paraphrase*

*No one can live or die in isolation; our life and death touch others.*

*Philippians 1:20-22 The Mirror Paraphrase*

*The Message is incarnate in me; whether I live or die, it makes no difference. Christ defines my life; death cannot threaten or diminish that. I cannot tell when I shall lift up the anchor of the flesh and sail away! It doesn't really matter to me.*

*Bob has well-loved his Lord Jesus, his family and his friends. We bless and salute you, Robert Vincent Russo, Sr. Our lives are diminished by your leaving.*

*Glo. (Mary Ann's sister, Gloria Bryant Simonds)*

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**Gloria Simonds** - November 10, 2021 at 08:41 AM

JS

“ *Bob Russo stands tall in the family. He married the older sister, Mary Ann Bryant, of my wife, Gloria Bryant. Bob and Mary Ann were married for 60 years. Gloria and I have been married 58 years. Bob set the pace for marriage and faithfulness. He also led the members of the family in a firm commitment to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Bob has entered the Holy Place and we all look forward to seeing him there, each and every one of us. Incidentally, Mary Ann and Gloria were both Jacksonville born and raised Florida girls. Mary Ann married Bob, a New York Yankee (not the baseball team although he was a big fan) and Gloria married a New Jersey Yankee. God used both of those dear women to smooth the edges off both of us Yankees. Well done, brother Bob, a hero to me and my family you are. Rest and grow now in the fullness of the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Love from Jack Simonds, your junior brother in Christ and in the family.*

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**Jack Siimonds** - November 09, 2021 at 04:22 PM



“ *Memories to Treasure was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Vincent Russo, Sr..*



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November 09, 2021 at 11:11 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Vincent Russo, Sr..*



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November 09, 2021 at 09:21 AM