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**Robert "Bob" John Skaar(1946 - 2018)**

On Sunday, February 18, Bob Skaar completed life's earthly journey. He was born in Grand Forks, ND, to Tom and Marie Skaar, both deceased. Bob was also preceded in death by his son Robert, who perished in a hiking accident at age 13. He is survived by Marcia, his loving wife of 48 years; son David and wife Dawn and grandchildren Cassandra and Garrett, all of Raleigh, NC; brother Tom and wife Candy of Jamestown, NC; nieces Jamie and Deidre and nephew Ted.

Bob attended the University of North Dakota where he graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering and a commission in the US Air Force. While in college Bob met Marcia in the school library and was proud to say that it was love at first sight. They were married on March 30, 1970.

After a preliminary school, Bob was assigned to Holloman, AFB, NM, where he served as an aircraft maintenance officer in the 8th Tactical Fighter Squadron (the Black Sheep). His next assignment was to the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, where he received a master's degree in aeromechanical engineering. In April 1974, Bob along with Marcia and sons Robert and David moved to Albuquerque, NM, where Bob worked for 3 years in the AF Weapons Laboratory at Kirtland AFB. He followed this with 6 years at the AF Directorate of Nuclear Surety also at Kirtland AFB. In 1983, Bob began his last assignment in the Air Force by returning to Holloman AFB where he served as operations officer for the AF Radar Target Scatter Test Facility (RATSCAT).

Bob retired from the Air Force as a Major in 1989, having spent 17 1/2 years of his 20 year career in NM. After returning to school to obtain a master's degree in education, Bob joined the faculty of NMSU-A where he taught mathematics, engineering and computer classes. In 2005, Bob and Marcia retired from NMSU-A. They had a combined total of 38 years teaching.

Having always enjoyed traveling, visiting all 50 states, Bob and Marcia continued to travel with many of their numerous friends and visited 6 continents and nearly 50 countries. Bob was a man of many talents and interests. He loved the outdoors and gardening and was a member of the Otero County Master Gardeners. He also enjoyed hiking, beekeeping and was a voracious reader. He was an accomplished woodworker and built a wide variety of projects for his home, church and friends. Bob became a skilled scroll saw operator producing literally hundreds of large and small designs, most of which were given away.

Most importantly, Bob enjoyed the time he got to spend with his grandchildren, especially their last trip in August 2017, when son David and grandchildren Cassandra and Garrett joined him and Marcia for 2 1/2 weeks of photo safari in southern Africa.

Following a diagnosis of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, on Dec 5, 2015, Bob received a double lung transplant at St Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix, AZ and was honored as the 400th transplant. He moved into chronic rejection in late 2017 and has now joined his beloved son Robert in our heavenly home.

Bob was an valued member of Our Savior Lutheran Church and was elected to many terms on the church council and served in many other capacities.

Services will be held at OSLC 1212 Washington Ave. at 1 pm Saturday, March 3, Pastors Kristi Koppel and Larry Sydow officiating. Should friends desire, contributions may be made to Our Savior Lutheran Church or Alamogordo Home Health Care and Hospice in the name of Bob Skaar.

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