



Russell Ober III

June 10, 2024

Lt. Colonel (Ret.) Russell T. Ober III, affectionately known as Bear, passed away on June 10, 2024, at the age of 85, and was the beloved husband of Lynne Ober. He completed his first bachelor's degree in chemistry from Syracuse University, his master's degree in Mathematics from the Central Michigan University (while stationed with his SAC unit in Michigan), and his second bachelor's degree in German from University of Maryland (while stationed at Ramstein Air Base, Germany).

Dedicated to serving his country, Russ spent 23 years in the U.S. Air Force in SAC and TAC before transitioning to USAFE at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. During the Vietnam War he flew nearly 600 combat hours as a Wild Weasel. Russ was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in March 1971, the prestigious Silver Star in April 1971 for his role in the Son Tay Prison raid, and the Air Medal with 19 Oak Leaf Clusters during his four tours in Southeast Asia. He joined Air Force Intelligence operations in USAFE where he continued his career and garnered more recognition for his work. He was stationed with the Army at Fort Bliss from 1980 to 1982 where his mission was to convince the Army that the motto "if it flies, it dies", needed to be modified to recognize "friendly" aircraft such as flown by the Air Force in combat situations. He worked with a unit educating Army personnel about differences between American military and civilian planes and planes flown by combatants against American troops and was awarded the Army

Achievement Medal for his efforts in a combat area.

After his retirement from the US Air Force, he taught high school mathematics at Alvirne High School in Hudson, NH. He found great joy in engaging with his students through coaching, teaching, conversing, and mentoring. For seventeen years he passed on his love of math, life and advice for living an honorable life to his students.

After retiring as a teacher, Russ was a New Hampshire State Representative for 9 terms. He was a member on the Ways and Means Committee where he helped craft NH taxing policies, Science Technology and Energy Committee as well as the State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs, which he also chaired. Russ worked diligently to move NH to a more cohesive approach to veteran services, much of which has been implemented today.

Beyond his multiple service-related careers, Russ was a man of many interests. He enjoyed a zest for life that radiated throughout his life. He relished spending time with family. Although a quiet and self-assuming man, he was known for a dry wit that he shared with one and all, much to the enjoyment and chagrin of generations of family and friends. He was a lifelong Boston Red Sox fan. An adventurer at heart, he continued to run, ski, laugh, read and travel. He and his wife traveled extensively throughout their 53 years of marriage and visited every continent except Australia. Russ had a strategic mind, finding joy in puzzles that stretched his mind.

Russ is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years, Lynne Ober, his sons Michael Ober and his wife Sherri Ober, Jeff Ober and his wife Rikki Ober, and Ted Ober, his grandchildren Justin Ober, Nathaniel Ober, Elizabeth (Eli) Ober, Randy Ober, Brittney Ober Courtenay married to Ryan Courtenay, and Ryan Ober, and his great-grandchildren Gabrielle Ober, Kensley Ober, Cardin Courtenay, and Scarlett Ober. Other close family members are Robin and Jim

Callahan, Cindy and Rick Ressijac, Diann and Stan Lewandowski, Phil Ober, Karen Dwinell, Patricia Ober, Erin Burke, Jackie Lambert Smith.

Though he may have left this world, his legacy of caring and kindness, wisdom, and adventure will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Memorial Contributions may be made to Dana Farber Gastrointestinal Cancer Treatment Center in Boston in memory of Russell T. Ober III and their website may be found at https://www.dana-farber.org/how-you-can-help/ways-to-give/make-a-memorial-or-tribute-gift?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR2gzFm3xPbQvy7H_jLLcNCngxVp6epAja-JCZ1N6f0c-Le3HWgw1A4K_Eg_aem_ARplzdsQlmlwUDnG0XE2el89eaIV1Rr9YQcg1pKjOAgZstbBAb4pzouRGL0p3J8bqW488hvfTILbXoAN7UmXNFzy

Services will be private for family members.

Tribute Wall

WS

“ Every student, if lucky, has that one teacher who makes ‘that’ difference, in their lives.



Mr. Ober, was ‘that’ teacher.

He called you by your last name (Mr/Ms. xxxx), not because why many thought. He did it out of respect for you.

As somebody who had him as a teacher a few times, I always looked forward to the day of no regular class, but of learning about his time flying in the service.

He was Far More than a teacher. I dare say a friend now, as much as a student could respectfully be, as one.

From asking him if his AR could race my K’s car, to even more all the great ski trips and club skiing.

He was the actual ‘adult’ that many of us would soon meet in real life, years later.

He was a kind and generous person. He was always challenging us to learn more, and question things when required

(ex: see teacher union dues)

He was always ready to help you learn & was going to be real about it and life.

He never gave you a grade. You had an A and it was “your’s to lose”.

He had a huge impact in my life then and still does to this day.

I spoke to him via email about 10yrs ago, once I had a family & career, to see how he was and to say ‘Thank You’.

For being a real teacher (mentor), for treating us like actual adults, and expecting it from us at all times.

I will looking for him one day in my own future & hope to see him again one day.

He'll be easy to find, as anybody who knew him knows he always wore his yellow ski hat.

I hope on day to know where his final resting place is, so I may properly offer up my final words of gratitude to him...

...and tell him I finally started learning German ;-)

I'm very sorry for your loss Mrs. Ober & thank you for sharing him with us.

See you again, on that next chair lift.*

-Mr Noble

(Bill)

** I quit smoking in college, it safe to see you o the slopes during night skiing, now ;-)*

WSN - August 02, 2024 at 12:04 AM

DL

“ *Dear Lynn and family, we are so sorry for your loss. He was an amazing man and will be missed by many in many ways. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Deedee & Roger LaTulippe.*

Deedee & Roger Latulippe - June 20, 2024 at 09:47 AM

KB

“ Mr. Ober was more than just my math teacher at Alvirne in the mid 90s. He inspired a true love for geometry, helping me see I could do well in the subject. More importantly, he showed me respect, which was rare for me as a bi, gender-nonconforming, mental health mess. I have carried that support with me throughout the years. He also has the coolest cars. My thoughts are with his family, and I am positive, if it were possible, he would have won as many awards in education as in his distinguished career prior to teaching. I had always wanted to say thank you to Mr. Ober and hope he knew his impact! - Kris (Cecere-Spagnuolo) Bowden

Kris Bowden - June 20, 2024 at 05:34 AM

KP

“ I will always cherish my vacation on the Cape with the Obers and Shannon. Such a kind man that impacted so many people.

Kersten Prochnow-Wuebben - June 19, 2024 at 09:32 PM

SS

“ He was my favorite teacher of all time. His dry sense of humor, his love for teaching, and patience to push us to learn. He made such an impact, and I was blessed to be one of his students.

Stephanie Maye (now Singe) - June 19, 2024 at 09:05 PM

PK

“ *The Honorable Russ Ober was my first chair when I was a NH State Rep. His calm demeanor was always present and taught me so much. The following year when I became chair of the same committee he paid me the greatest compliment when he told me that he like how I had arranged the schedule and was fair in my committee. I am so sorry to hear about his passing. The world has lost a kind man. My heartfelt condolences go out to The Honorable Lynne Ober and her family. Please always be good to yourself.*

Patricia Klee - June 17, 2024 at 07:56 AM

ML

“ *I taught with Russ for many years at Alvirne. Always enjoyed our chats.*

Russ Ober served his country, Alvirne and the state of NH well. A man of few words whose service spoke volumes about the man.

Mike Lee - June 16, 2024 at 06:48 PM

KW

“ *It saddens me to know of Mr. Ober's passing. He was my teacher at Alvirne and one of my favorites. He never gave up on me and was fair and honest and I respected him greatly. I have fond memories of him sliding in a joke on occasion during lessons to see which students were actually paying attention in class since math isn't exactly the most exciting subject. I always caught it. Thank you for the memories Mr. Ober.*

Kristy West - June 16, 2024 at 04:15 PM

DT

“ Russ was a valued member on my Science, Technology and Energy Committee. As an Air Force retiree/veteran, I salute a fallen airman who gave exemplary service to his country and family! Aim high Russ!

Doug Thomas - June 14, 2024 at 05:41 PM

RJ

“ Russ and I often talked about cars; we had a common interest. There aren't enough Russ Obers in this world today.

Ron Jarvis - June 13, 2024 at 06:42 PM

TD

“ Tad Dionne lit a candle in memory of Russell Ober III



Tad Dionne - June 13, 2024 at 02:37 PM

TD

Thank you Mr. Ober for you service to our country, our community, and our great state. You will be missed.

Tad Dionne - June 13, 2024 at 02:39 PM

EL

To Lynne Ober and family:
I am saddened to learn of the passing of Colonel Ober. He was a man whom I respected for his service to our country and state. I enjoyed discussing our common interests , and especially his role in providing air support for the Son Tay raiders in the Republic of Viet Nam. He was the "real deal", and an American hero in every sense!

Major(Retired) NH State Police

Ernest Francis Loomis - June 18, 2024 at 10:47 AM

CR

“ Russ was always a gentleman. He was kind and smart...so smart. All of the members of the NH House and Senate will remember Russ and his great work on committee legislation. I will remember Russ fondly. Thinking of the entire Ober family, especially my friend Lynne Ober.

Claire Rouillard - June 13, 2024 at 02:30 PM

JF

“ Know that there are so many people that Russ knew that are feeling the loss of his passing. Lynne, my thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. May the memories of Russ carry you through this difficult time.

Hon. Jack Flanagan

Jack Flanagan - June 13, 2024 at 01:55 PM

LR

“ I was the Committee Assistant for State, Federal and Veterans Affairs Committee when Russ was Chairman...he was a wonderful man, he and I worked together with no issues what so ever. I had the most utmost respect for Representative Ober and I am so very sad that his time on earth has come to an end. Lynne and Russ were two of my favorite people at the LOB and they will both forever remain a part of the best memories I have working there. Condolences to the Ober family. May Russ rest in peace.



Linda Rafeal - June 13, 2024 at 12:55 PM

MS

“ Mr. Ober was one of my favorite teachers. My mother told me that when I came home from school on the first day, I threw myself on the couch and said, "I have Mr. Ober!" (I'd heard he was really strict.) It wasn't long before I absolutely adored him. He would tease me if I did well on a test. "I must not be making these hard enough." He never hesitated to share his time. It didn't matter if you were 14 years old; he would look you in the eye and speak to you with honesty, respect, and trust. My deepest condolences to his family, who must be extremely proud of him.

Mary McNeil Sassin - June 13, 2024 at 12:00 PM

JJ

“ It is interesting that greatness and quality can be recognized without fanfare. I only knew Russ Ober as a fellow legislator, a friendly face at morning coffee in the State House, but will always remember him with much respect and affection.

Jane B. Johnson - June 13, 2024 at 11:54 AM

EC

Mr. Ober was a teacher and a neighbor. I remember running by him and always comparing how far we ran that day. He challenged me in the class and was always there for extra help.. I remember his dry sense of humor and my tests smelling of cigars. I'll never forget him.

erin chin - June 19, 2024 at 09:35 PM

BP

Dear Lynne and Family,

I am so very sorry to hear about Russ' passing. I remember Russ from our days flying F-105G Wild Weasels at Korat Air Base, Thailand, and Nellis AFB, Nevada, as Wild Weasel instructors. We were stationed at Nellis from 1973 to 1975 in the 66th Fighter Weapons Squadron. I remained with the unit when it was moved to George AFB, California, in 1975 and I never saw Russ again. I read his obituary and I was glad that he did very well for the remainder of his military career and then becoming a teacher for many years. From the comments by some of his former students, I could tell he was well loved and respected. He was always a very smart guy. I will remember him and all of you in my prayers.

Bob Pettit - September 09, 2024 at 09:00 AM