

MSgt Bobby Joe Wagner

8 December 1949 – 31 October 2009



Bobby Joe Wagner, 59, of Westlake Village, California, passed away on October 31, 2009 in Thousand Oaks, California of multiple organ failure. He was born on December 8, 1949, in Lindsay, Oklahoma, the son of Dale and Mary Wagner. He leaves behind his wife, Toni; his daughters, Heather and Elissa, of Thousand Oaks; his son, Robert, and daughter, Rebecca, both of Phoenix; his brothers, Stephen, of Bakersfield; and Michael, of Tennessee; his sister, Eloise, of Tennessee; and his beloved Cockapoo, Tara.

Bob spent his high school years in the San Francisco Bay area, graduating from Newark High School, and attended Ohlone College before enlisting in the Air Force in 1968. He had a distinguished 22 year military career serving in both the Air Force and Air National Guard. MSgt Bobby Joe Wagner served 7 years active duty Air Force as an Aircraft Mechanic on B-52, KC-135, and RC-121 aircraft. He joined the 129th ARRG at Hayward in 1978 as an Aircraft Mechanic. During BJ's 17 year career with the 129th, he served in many career fields and steadily progressed to ever higher levels of responsibility and leadership, cross-training from aircraft maintenance to Military Personnel as an Education & Training NCO, and rising to Force Management Superintendent. During his Military Personnel career, BJ served as the chief recruiter for the 129th and achieved an outstanding record of recruitments. Every career field within the 129th Group benefitted greatly from his manning efforts, and he was recognized as the California Air National Guard Recruiter of the Year. BJ spent the remainder of his career as a logistician with the 129th Civil Engineering Squadron, planning and participating in many field deployments with our Prime Beef team. BJ received the Air Force Achievement Medal (with 1 device), the Air Force Commendation Medal (with 1 device) and the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal. MSgt Bobby Joe Wagner retired as an AGR with 22 years combined service on November 6, 1995.

After leaving the Air Guard with a service connected disability he joined his wife, Toni, in managing Travel Services of Sonoma, where he lived for 15 years.

He then turned to his favorite pastime – cooking for his friends and family. Creating a new dish always brought a smile to his face and ours since we all knew his secret ingredient – love. Bob also enjoyed all kinds of music and he especially loved attending and supporting Elissa's performances and Heathers' film projects. Bob was very much involved in acting in the Bay Area performing for TheaterWorks, Regional Artists Media and various film projects. He also loved hunting and fishing.

Beleaguered by multiple illnesses, Bob fought valiantly for several years to stay with us as long as he could. We love and miss him. He is forever our hero.

*He rests in blanketed peace,
Grief and pain can touch him no more
Eternal sleep beckons his spirit to
move
Further into the divine essence of
immortal awakening
With light and love will he abandon his
body,
And watch over those who mourn in his
vigil
In dreams he will descend to comfort
the brokenhearted
Picking up the pieces to resurrect a
memory of strength
As he dances with angels through
dark and light
The Old World never will forget his
magnificence
And the spirit, now everlasting, quiets
the troubled sleep of mortals*

Forever our laughter

Forever our hero

Heather Wagner