

Bob Schaeffer Fights His Last Battle

By John Singleton

Bob Schaeffer achieved the distinction of living a life filled with both talent and accomplishment. His time on earth was not an example of promise unfulfilled.

Most of us in Severna Park knew Bob from his writing, but, he wasn't all talk - he was gifted as an artist, athlete, leader, and teacher.

Born in Bradford Pennsylvania on April 5, 1939, Commander Schaeffer was the son of Richard Clark and Joan Fremouw Schaeffer. Upon graduation from High School in Roanoke, VA, where he was a standout athlete and three-sport varsity letterman in football, basketball, and track, he enrolled at Virginia Tech.

After his freshman year, Bob enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving on the *USS Haynesworth* in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. After being honorably discharged from the Navy, he moved to North Carolina where he attended and graduated from the University of North Carolina with a B.A. in History. While at the University he met Brenda Gayle Dellinger, the woman who would be his wife for the next 40 years.

Shortly after marriage, Bob returned to the Navy. Commissioned as an Ensign after Officer Candidate School, he spent the next 20 years associated with the Navy Destroyer School. When the family moved to San Diego in 1971, Bob started a tour of duty in Vietnam. During the 70's he completed a Masters Degree in International Affairs with an emphasis on the Middle East.

In 1981 Bob arrived in Maryland to work at the Pentagon. In his final six years before retirement he was called upon to teach at the U.S. Naval Academy where he introduced a course in Middle Eastern Affairs, which has become required curriculum for all midshipmen.

In retirement, Bob is perhaps most well-known for his work with the Anne Arundel Tax Payers Association, where he overcame significant resistance to help establish the Property Tax Cap in the 1990's.

Considering he was truly a



Bob Schaeffer, born April 5, 1939, died May 15, 2006.

man-of-action, it is ironic Bob Schaeffer is most familiar to us for his monthly column in the *Severna Park Voice*. His writing was tenacious, controversial in its conviction, funny, and sometimes over-the-top. Bob Schaeffer did not drone on... He boomed across the page with a rare audacity and outrageous wit. He stretched the limits of free speech - not out of lewdness - in service to his political ideals. Bob was courageously steadfast... willing to suffer insult for the principles he believed.

Unbeknownst to many, Bob did not come to his beliefs out of some foggy academic notion of politics or society. Throughout his life, he was an avid reader who traveled the world, served his country, and witnessed and studied various political systems in action. He proudly and fearlessly confronted those he believed to be America's enemies - head-on.

In the end, Bob Schaeffer believed in two things intolerable to his critics yet inspiring to his admirers: His unshakable belief in American exceptionalism and his certainty that the Christian message lay at the center of world history.

On May 15th, Bob Schaeffer lost his battle with heart disease. To cherish his memory Bob leaves behind his wife of nearly 40 years, Brenda Dellinger Schaeffer, two sons, Kerry and Keehln, and five grandchildren.