



Robert W. Coleman

May 27, 1949 - March 3, 2021

Robert (Bob) William Coleman, age 71, of Sarasota FL, died on March 3, 2021 of injuries sustained in a bicycle accident on January 27, 2021. He was born on May 27, 1949 at Van Allen Hospital, Kodaikanal, South India. His parents were Margaret Hawkinson Coleman and William Dawson Coleman who were Lutheran missionaries in Andhra, India for 44 years. At the age of six Bob entered Kodai School, a boarding school for missionary children in the Palani hills of South India. He graduated from there in 1966. All his life, he was devoted to the friendships begun at Kodai School and nurtured at annual Kodai reunions.

Bob moved to the U.S. in 1966 and attended Lehigh University in Bethlehem PA. He graduated from Augustana College, Rock Island IL in 1970 with a B.A. in geology.

Bob started his career in 1979 with Smally, Wellford & Nalven (SWN), where he worked with their engineering department, but soon moved over to the survey department as a crew chief. Bob was very intelligent and worked extremely hard, so was asked to work in the office and start managing projects. Soon after Bob passed his exam and became a Professional Surveyor & Mapper. SWN merged with WilsonMiller and was later purchased by Stantec, but Bob remained through all the transitions. His mentor and friend Bob Cunningham remembers Bob as a cheerful, energetic free spirit. Bob was always ready to help his co-workers, and everyone enjoyed working with him. They will all miss his smiling face. Bob retired from Stantec in 2019.

Bob met Julie Hanson in the late '80's; they married in 1995 and were together for over 30 years until his death. Bob and Julie enjoyed summers on their property in Burnsville, North Carolina, where they shared an affinity for animals and nature. Bob lovingly supported Julie in developing a compassionate cat rescue called Be the Change, Inc., a lifelong passion of hers. He was looking forward to spending more of his time in retirement at the property with their most beloved pets, including their recently adopted puppy, Cado. They had just finished remodeling a cabin there for his mother-in-law Helen this last summer.

Bob was previously married to Shanta Derr. They had two children, Devin Anand Coleman-Derr of Concord, California and Sharis Gita Coleman-Derr of Largo, Florida.

One of Bob's greatest gifts was as a listener. When he asked you how you were doing, he would give you his full attention and listen carefully to your response in the most non-judgmental way. As his family reconnected to tell "Bob stories," they realized how he had made so many in his life feel fully seen and heard. He was always up for an adventure: sailing, camping, hiking, dancing, home improvement projects, and trying new foods. Other pursuits he enjoyed were meditation, cycling, tai chi, bird watching, walking on his favorite Florida beaches, stargazing, singing, and spending time at home with Julie and the animals. While he worked very hard at his career throughout his life, he also consistently made time to connect with both of his children and his two grandchildren. He loved music (especially the Beatles, Simon & Garfunkel, Cat Stevens, and Peter, Paul and Mary), had a wonderful tenor voice, and was just learning to play the guitar. Bob was the kindest of men, a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. All who met him were touched by his gentle soul, manifested by his many acts of empathy, thoughtfulness and genuine caring.

Bob is survived by his wife, Julie Hanson of Sarasota, his son Devin Anand Coleman-Derr of Concord CA (Dawn Chiniquy), his granddaughters Madeleine Chiniquy Coleman and Ella Chiniquy Coleman, of Concord CA, his

daughter Sharis Gita Coleman-Derr (Adam Ayers) of Largo FL, his brother John Coleman (Kathy) of Enfield CT, and his sister Mary Coleman Lowry (David) of New Orleans LA.

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert W. Coleman*

October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ *Robert W. Coleman*

January 28, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *What a pleasure it was to work with Bob - such a nice man!*

May you be comforted by memories, and may God give you peace and strength.

Terry Picard - April 27, 2021 at 11:05 AM



“ *My sincere condolences to his family and friends.*



Joseph Rzczycki - March 16, 2021 at 11:22 AM



“ *Bob was one 'Cool Cat'. A very high energetic person who was always willing to help and teach anyone who was interested in survey. Bob was very proud to say "I'm the office "Hippy" and would have the biggest smile. Bob will be missed but definitely not forgotten.*

David Guagliardo - March 12, 2021 at 03:26 PM

DG

“ *Bob was one 'Cool Cat'. He really loved cats by sheltered them and always finding the right owner for the right cat.*

Bob always said he was our resident "Hippy"! Bob always was helpful, willing to teach survey to our crews and our techs. forever he will be missed but he certainly wont be forgotten.

Dave G

David Guagliardo - March 12, 2021 at 01:01 PM

MS

“ *Bob will be forever missed, not just by us all in the office, but all of those he knew and came into contact with him over the years. I can honestly say, Bob, you were one of the kindest hearts I have ever had the privilege to know, and we are all heartbroken at the loss of your presence.*

Melanie Smith - March 12, 2021 at 11:27 AM

MC

“ *Bob was always so nice and kind, quick to engage in a friendly conversation. Bob will be missed so much. I'm very sorry for your loss, he was really a sweet guy.*

Melanie Conerly - March 12, 2021 at 11:27 AM

AA

“ I had the pleasure of speaking with Bob in May 2019 to conduct an 'exit interview' where we was asked to describe his time working at Stantec and any feedback he might have. During our conversation, he was jovial, light hearted and had very warm things to say about Mr. Cunningham's leadership style and how well the staff have been treated over the years. He expressed gratitude and his heart was full. He was in a good place and was beyond excited for an upcoming trip to Europe that he had planned.

You remember the interactions with people and how they make you feel. I remember Bob's warm and relaxed personality. I have no doubt he will be missed.

To Bob's family and loved ones, you're in our thoughts and prayers.

*Andrea L. Anderson
Stantec Human Resources*

Andrea L. Anderson - March 12, 2021 at 11:12 AM

CR

“ *What a wonderful man. I'm so saddened to hear of your loss. You will be greatly missed. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Miss you Bob.*

Cindy Richelieu - March 11, 2021 at 05:20 PM