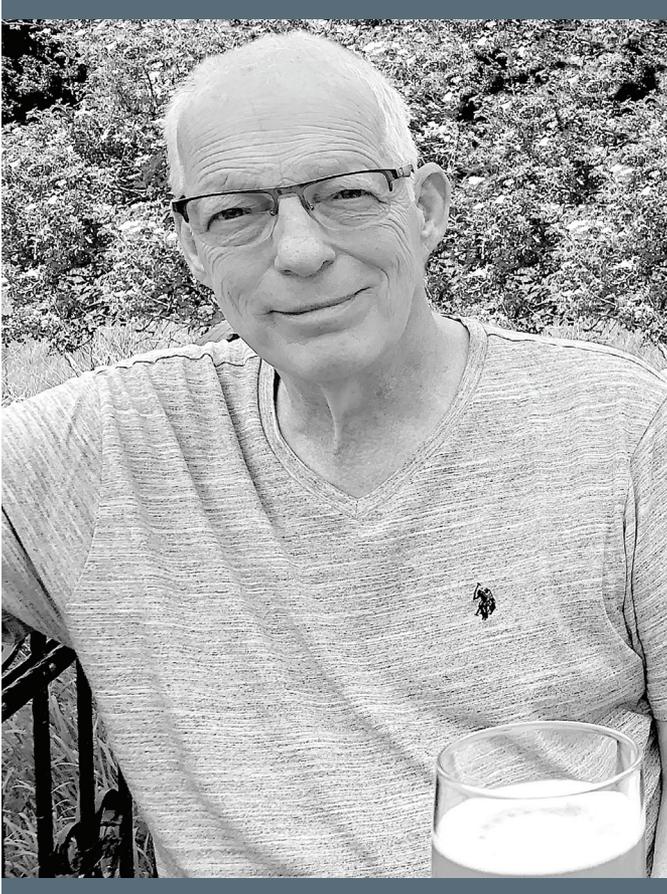


HONORING

THE LIFE OF



Robert Reismann

DECEMBER 23, 1960 – SEPTEMBER 21, 2021



OBITUARY

Robert (Bob) Werner Reismann

Robert was born December 23, 1960 to Karl Horst Reismann and Gail Constance Wilder in Somerville, Massachusetts.

Bob spent his early childhood in Somerville before moving to Viroqua, Wisconsin in 1967. Bob graduated from Blair High School in Blair, Wisconsin in 1978. After high school, although Bob had an opportunity to work with his father, Karl, to run the family butcher shop business in Blair, Bob decided that time off from studies in order to travel within the US was more appealing.

Bob, not afraid of hard work, worked in various jobs. He was a farmer, a butcher, a construction worker, a bus boy, a bartender and a waiter, and he even spent a summer on a lobster fishing boat.

While traveling, Bob stopped for brief periods to work in Arizona and Florida before returning to his studies at UMass Boston in the early 1980s. Bob always had a desire to study and travel abroad, most especially a return to his roots. Bob's dad was born in Bremerhaven, Germany and immigrated to Boston in the early 1950's. In 1986, Bob decided to join a student exchange

program and ventured to England for a semester which also included playing some Rugby. Although he loved participating in high school football in the US, nothing prepared him for how much he would enjoy being part of a Rugby club and living in Europe. He returned to the US after the exchange program ended and within 6 months he returned to Europe permanently.

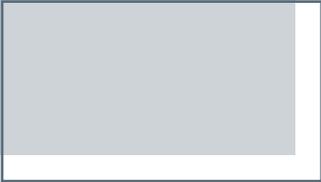
Upon Bob's return to Europe, he started his studies at Heidelberg University and integrated his life into the German culture through his studies and the Rugby Club community. As his studies were coming to an end, in 1990, Bob applied for and accepted a position with the US Armed Forces Defense Department with the Stars and Stripes working with logistics distribution throughout Europe. Bob's career with Stars and Stripes started in Europe, but with troop movement to Iraq in 2003, his talents were needed in combat outposts stretching from Baghdad to Fallujah and Mosul. Bob eventually became the point man in the Middle East which required him to venture into not only Iraq but Afghanistan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and parts of Africa.

Although diagnosed with cancer in May 2021 with an excellent prognosis, due to a combination of complications with his surgery and a compromised immune system, he was not able to fight off an infection that developed post-surgery.

In August, Bob was able to take one last trip to Bahrain allowing him to do the work he loved until the very end. Although Bob always considered himself "just a paper boy," anyone that ever worked with him or for him knew he was so much more.

Bob is survived by his wife of 25 years, Marja Elina, residing in Niedermohr, Germany; and his children: Samuel, 24, accepted and recently commenced his training at the Naval Officer Candidate School in Newport RI; Charles, 21, is attending California State University at Long Beach in California studying International Business and Matthew, 19, is attending Elms Collage in Chicopee, Massachusetts on scholarship studying Sports Management and playing for the Elms Blazers soccer team in the Forward position.

In addition to being survived by his wife and children, Bob had 4 siblings: Tammy Barrera, Mission Viejo, CA; Tracy Astacaan, Sierra Madre, CA; Todd Reismann, Whitehall, WI and Trina LaPointe, Ettrick, WI. Bob also had 5 half siblings: Rudy Reismann, New London, WI; Jason Reismann, Blair, WI; Kris Reismann, New London, WI; Chad Henden, Oconto, WI and Shannon Heller, Cambria, WI and 19 nieces and nephews.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE THY NAME.
THY KINGDOM COME.
THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH,
AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.
AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES,
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS
AGAINST US.
AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.
FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM,
THE POWER, AND THE GLORY,
FOR EVER AND EVER.
AMEN.



ORDER OF SERVICE

'A MAN'S A MAN FOR A' THAT'
BY ROBERT BURNS



WELCOME MESSAGE CHAPLAIN



THE LORD'S PRAYER



REMARKS BY DAVE SCHULTZ



REMARKS BY LT. COL HOFFMAN



REMARKS BY REISMANN FAMILY



SPECIAL PRESENTATION



CLOSING PRAYERS



'AMAZING GRACE'



TRIBUTES

REMEMBER SADNESS IS ALWAYS TEMPORARY.
THIS, TOO, SHALL PASS.

Chuck T. Falcon



In 2002 as a rookie District Manager, Bob was my supervisor. As you all know in 2002-2003 is when we kicked off the Middle East operations. Having spent almost all my time deployed whilst in the Army from 1993-2001, I had no desire to deploy again once given the order that Stripes would have to set up operations in the Middle East and that the District Managers would indeed have to be there. 2003 was a very dangerous time to be in Iraq. A week before my scheduled departure I handed Bob my resignation notice.

He refused to accept it. I told him I was nervous, that I had no weapon, that my wife was concerned—literally every excuse I could think of, I gave it to him. The first thing out of his mouth in his THICK Boston accent was, “C’mon, don’t be a baby!”

Bob was not a prior service member, but he had more grit than a salty old drill sergeant! He sat me down, explained everything and reassured me that I would be safe because I was with him!

All my doubts and fears faded. I followed him to Iraq.

One man changed my whole destiny. Bob was one of the best mentors I ever had. I will forever be thankful to him for molding me into the person I am today. Before I believed in Stripes, I believed in Bob.

Bob was a true friend, colleague and mentor to many of us and will always be remembered.

— James Afflerbach

I will always remember Bob as an easy to get along character with a good-humor. We joked a lot because he lived part of his life in Wisconsin, and I come from Minnesota. We would give each other that Packers-Vikings/Wis-Min rivalry. I will miss his smile and Bob jokingly saying that I’m from Duluth although I come from the Twin Cities.

I also joked with him about his Bostonian accent once emailing him the alphabet that left out the R then revised it as ah. I joke with him about Pahk the Cah at the Hahvahd Yahd.

We disagreed on politics but that never got between us. I don’t think Bob could dislike anyone. I know that I, for one, will for sure miss Bob. I hope, when my time comes, I will see him again.

We love you and will miss you, Bob!

— Jeff Teeselink

I remember Bob being a guy who would tell us the way things actually were, not caring who he annoyed by telling the truth. I really appreciated that aspect of Bob. Another great attribute Bob had was his eagerness to work in the Contingency areas. He definitely excelled and thrived as he supported the Contingency areas. ↯↯I was also very grateful to have Bob with me in Baghdad (in the September/October 2003 timeframe). Dan Holland had to depart and Bob came to Baghdad to continue the task of setting up distribution. He helped me a great deal and made my life and task of getting all operations set-up much easier.

— Norman Schaefer

I was the circulation manager/director at ESS from January 1999 until retiring in August 2013. I want to forward my sincere condolences for his family and friends. As we all grieve, I felt I should share some of my memories of 15 years in the trenches with Bob. As most of you know, Bob was a proud family man. I still remember when his first son Samuel was born and how proud he was as he grew, and grew, and grew. Last time I saw him, I think he was still in his mid-teens and towered over Bob at about 6'4 and still growing.

When I first arrived at Stripes, Bob was district manager for Heidelberg and the U.K. I soon recognized Bob's ability as a field manager. And also recognized that he was a little head strong - well, a lot. But what successful circulator isn't? I had never been to the U.K. so Bob and I "flew" over - with him driving one of our old fleet Golfs that had at least 250,000 miles on it. I'm not sure if the car had brakes. I kept looking for a pedal on the floor board of the passenger side, but I'm not sure he ever found one on the driver's side either.

I took great pride that Bob eventually worked his way up to field manager. And after Col. Norman Schaefer, production manager Ron Garcia and I made the initial print site foray into Bagdad, I was called back and asked Bob to replace me. Billeted at the convention center, it was only a few days later that the center suffered a rocket attack - the beginning of the insurgency. Bob always implied that I had some sort of intel that allowed me to escape and subject him to the attack. Not true.

When XSS split from ESS Bob was the obvious choice as manager. There he excelled for over 10 years.

In a more poignant moment, I remember taking a 30-second break to peer out the window and recharge on my way between my office and the conference room on third floor. Bob came by and bumped shoulders with me as we often did - not too smart on my part as he was much bigger. He pointed across the street and said, "It won't be long till we're over there." Much too soon my friend, much too soon.
RIP Robert Reismann.

— Dan Holland

Bob was always telling me that he was paper boy, especially when we were reconciling the SSX MIPRs. I said, “Bob please stop telling me that you are just a paper!”

We had so many great memories together since we met the first time back in 1990.

— Roberto Santiago

I met Bob almost 25 years ago when I arrived as the deputy commander, then commander, of the paper in Germany. He was one-of-a-kind – a true gentleman, relentless worker, and one of the most easy-going people you would ever meet. He was one of those people who was just fun to be around. And he was an inspiring leader to all who worked for him and with him.

His claim to fame is that since 2003, he was the point person for getting Stripes delivered to all war and contingency zones – up to 50,000 papers a day at the height of troop strength in Iraq and Afghanistan. There were many other countries in Bob’s “paper route” throughout the Middle East and Africa, and he was the linchpin to getting the paper to our most valued customers – those troops at the tip of the spear who could only get the printed version of our paper. People in those areas didn’t have a wireless connection, so print was all there was for them. Bob served hundreds of thousands of troops deployed to those areas by getting our paper in their hands. We all owe Bob a huge debt of gratitude, and his passing is a terrible loss to this organization.

Our condolences to Bob’s wife, Elina, and their three sons.

— Barry Williams

Bob and I bonded over Boston, especially since my dad was a football coach at Boston College and later worked for the New England Patriots.

Also, I worked with Bob on the developments of our wall maps of Iraq and Afghanistan. Bob knew of secret bases and was weary of providing this information to us.

Bob set up housing in various Southwest Asia markets. I appreciated being able to use them when travelling to Bahrain and Kuwait. On one of my TDYs, our schedules coincided in Bahrain. He was hesitant to meet up with me until I promised to buy him a beer. We had a great evening talking about everything but work. I didn’t mind treating him to three \$15 beers.

— Ed Kelin

I'm very sorry to hear about Bob's passing. He was a great guy and I really enjoyed the times I worked with him. He was a great host when I traveled to the Mideast and was a huge help as we made our way through three countries. I was impressed by him the first time I met him and his stories were awesome.

Bob had an amazing career with Stripes and positively impacted so many lives. His family should be proud.

I'll keep him in my thoughts.

— Drew Schneider

The Ultimate "Paperboy" You will be missed and never forgotten.

— Astrid Herbert

On Monday, the world lost a magnificent person: husband to Elina Reismann, father of Samuel, Charles and Matthew, brother to Tracy, son of a butcher (as he used to say with a big grin) and friend to many.

Bob was the surliest yet kindest and most down-to-earth guy you'd ever meet. He never sugar-coated anything and always told it like it was. We traveled for Stars and Stripes for over a decade to the Middle East and Southwest Asia. Bob was fiercely dedicated to the mission, and when we were downrange, he was my advisor, protector and confidant.

As fellow New Englanders, we shared a love for the Patriots, Cape Cod, Nantucket, deck shoes and polo shirts. We smoked, drank and discussed the intricacies of life. I once asked him what his biggest accomplishment was in life and he told me it was his family.

He was staunchly proud of his family of German, Finnish and American descent - they were trilingual and all the boys were athletes. He loved to show off their accomplishments in photos and videos. Bob was a problem solver and he knew how to interpret military regulations better than the U.S. Army.

I won't bid you farewell Bob, but rather Auf Wiedersehen mein Freund. My deepest condolences to your family. May you be in peace brother.

— Cheryl Boujnida

Bob was Stars and Stripes Expeditionary all the way. I often told people about when I first met Bob.

I was still only a potential candidate for the job and Priscilla was taking me through the building to introduce me to each manager.

Bob took one look at me and said, “Ya ever been to the Middle East, or deployed to those areas?”

I said no and he said, “Well, then I really don’t have anything to talk about with you.”

No offense taken, he reminded me right away of family. I have many gruff, tell-it-like-it-is family members from Boston and Beverly, MA and from the Philadelphia area.

Once in the position, Bob was a rock for me. In all honesty I took Camp Buehring first and gave up UAE as my first TDY simply to be able to connect with Bob and understand the challenges he was facing with distribution.

We got to know each other well enough that we soon had plenty to talk about. On multiple occasions when I thanked him for his hard work and dedication he would just say, “Meh- It’s my job to make sure you look good. I’m just a paper boy.”

— Caroline Miller

“Verily we belong to Allah and verily to Him do we return.”

It is with great sadness that we learned our Star & Stripes’ District Manager, our business partner, and, most importantly, our dearly beloved friend, Mr. Bob Reismann, has returned to Allah.

We worked with our friend Bob for many, many years. We have the privilege of learning a great deal of things from him, as he passed on to us a vast wealth of knowledge surrounding our industry. He was a great part of our collective success and, more personally, of our own success as a businessman.

We’re comforted by the fact that, with the warmth, grace, and kindness that he displayed throughout his remarkable life, his soul will ascend to Heaven, where he will be with Allah.

Our prayers are with Bob’s family. May Allah accept his deeds and grant him mercy and forgiveness and enter him into Heaven.

— Youssef Dowair and All Staff of Al Muna Co,

Fadi Mohideen & All Staff of Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq, Bahrain, UAE and Jordan Printing site

POEM

Our memories build a special bridge
when loved ones have to part
to help us feel we're with them still
and sooth a grieving heart.
Our memories span the years we shared,
preserving ties that bind,
They build a special bridge of love
and bring us peace of mind.

Emily Matthews



SINCERE THANKS

The Reismann family would like to thank you for the kind expressions of sympathy shown following Robert's passing.

Your support at this difficult time was very much appreciated and a great comfort to our family.

As most of you know, Bob has two sons, both in college (Sophomore and Junior). Fundraising efforts are to assist both boys with travel expenses to attend the memorial in Germany and to offset upcoming college expenses previously covered by their father. If you would like to contribute, Bob's sister Tracy has started a Go Fund Me account.

