

In memorial for Bob Melton by Karen Joy Melton

11-6-1930



12-26-2009

Most people will remember my dad from the Post and I'm sure that they remember me...I had the most awesome, fabulous, wonderful fun loving dad in the whole world. I'm sure you can agree with me that he couldn't have been more proud of me throughout my life; as for my accomplishments they were only possible because of dad. He always said you can do anything you want to do in life and be anyone you want to be just so long as you take people with you, lift them up and let them enjoy the ride as well. Dad taught me at a very early age if you can help one person a day in any way, even if it is just a smile and a "hi how are you"...you would go a long way in life because it is in giving that you receive.

Bob Melton was born in Albemarle, North Carolina on November 6th 1930. He was the last child born to a very happy Grace Eudy, who had already had five other children. As I remember the story my aunts and uncles tell me..." Bobby Ray was a joy from day one"...and everyone who came across him just..."Loved" him. They say that even though he was small for

his age he would walk to school every day and carry his buddy, who had a bad leg, on his back. I heard school was over a mile away and dad took that journey every day with his friend and told him “one day I’m going to grow up and fly a big plane and I’m going to take you with me so you won’t have to walk in pain cause I’m going to fly you every where”

Dad did leave North Carolina and joined the Navy in 1950, much to the horror of his mother and father as all of his brothers and sisters lived within a mile from the family home. The only section of the Navy that was enlisting that month was the submarines, so off dad went and became the radioman and mechanic and from what I hear also cooked a mean breakfast. During the Korean War he was stationed on the USS Sperry (AS-12) a submarine tender off the coast of Korea.

While on leave he went with his buddy (the one he used to carry to school) to Berkeley, California and met my mother. Dad was a devout Christian and loved the Lord dearly, so off to church he went where, he met my mom who only went that day to sing in the choir. One year later they got married in Pleasant Hill, California on Feb. 18th 1958.

Mom and dad lived in Berkeley for two years then dad got a job with the Railroad, and later ended up in sales in the frozen food business for most of his life. In 1987 I found this fabulous house in Hawaiian Paradise Park and told mom and dad “if you

ever want to see your daughter again you've got to move to Hawaii". One of the first things dad did when he got here was join the VFW Post in Pahoa because he wanted to get involved in the community and try to make a difference, even if it meant mowing the grass or cooking eggs or tending the canteen, and that's how you all met dad (the coolest dad in the world Bob Melton) Formerly known as Bobby Ray from Albemarle, North Carolina. I can't tell you how many nights dad would come back from the Post and tell me stories of everyone who went there and how nice everyone was compared to California. As you all know you didn't see much of mom, she was a homebody, but knew dad loved going down there. He made more friends with your guys and gals, dad loved all of you so much. He looked forward to tending the canteen and the steak cookouts and just plain being useful and of course liars dice and dominoes. I could go on and on but for those of you who knew him well, the most important thing to him in life was to help his fellow brother and comrade. The last two years of his life were very happy ones. He lived at the Yukio Okutsu Veterans home in Hilo and had so many friends, even the nurses loved him. Dad was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2006 and pancreatic cancer 4 months ago. He did not suffer and only had about 6 challenging weeks. He passed away very peacefully the day after Christmas in my arms with Commander George Kelly at his side.

There are so many of you I would like to thank for giving my dad such good times. Up until 2006 you were his life, his fun, his brothers and you completed his life. We will miss him dearly; I already do but am so grateful for the best dad in the world. My mother is still alive and lives with me on Maui and is 75 and also has Alzheimer's but is doing great. I hope to meet you all again soon and thanks again for loving my dad...Bob Melton...U.S. Navy.

Karen Joy Melton



