



## Robert "Bob" Edward Kidwell Jr.

March 17, 1923 - October 9, 2014

Robert E Kidwell, Jr., (Bob) passed away peacefully with family at his side on Thursday, October 9, 2014.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, Mary R. Kidwell; children, Karen Maurey (Dave), Paula Duggan (Ted), Michael Kidwell (Johanna), Janet Pope (Steve), Jonathan Kidwell (Chrissy), Melanie Costello (Jim); grandchildren, Jason (Valerie), Eric, Mary, Jake, Jennifer, Joanna, Jolene, Stephen, Jacob (Shelby), Jordan (Brianna), Josh, Joe, Catherine and Patrick; and great-grandchildren, Logan, Lillian and Emma.

He was pre-deceased by his brother, John; his son, Patrick; and grandchildren, Christopher and Sean.

Born March 17, 1923, in Washington, DC, Bob graduated from McKinley Tech High School and served in the U.S. Army during World War II under the command of General George S. Patton. He received a Purple Heart for wounds suffered during combat in the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945. Following his recovery, Bob attended Catholic University of America, graduating with a degree in Electrical Engineering.

Married November 26, 1955, to Mary Rice, Bob and Mary raised six children in Silver Spring, MD. Bob spent much of his career at the Goddard Space

Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD. He was proud to be part of NASA's mission to design, build, test, launch, monitor and control unmanned scientific satellites. Bob's focus was the development of thermo physics and temperature controls for the spacecraft. He was a long time member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.

During retirement his personal interests included spending time with his wife, Mary, and their children and grandchildren, spoiling his dog Duke, conquering Sudoku puzzle, and testing new flavors of ice cream. He resided in Frederick MD, Fenwick Island, DE, and most recently in Chestertown, MD.

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, October 14, at 3:30 p.m. at Wesley Hall, Heron Point in Chestertown, MD. Interment with honors will be on Wednesday, October 15, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. in the Delaware Veteran's Cemetery in Bear, DE.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Alzheimers Association or to the Moore-Tobey Scholarship Fund of Heron Point. (Please make checks payable to Heron Point, 501 E. Campus Ave, Chestertown, MD 21620).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT **14.** 3:30 PM (ET)

Heron Point - Wesley Hall  
Chestertown, MD

## Graveside Service

OCT **15.** 1:00 PM (ET)

Delaware Veteran's Memorial Cemetery  
2465 Chesapeake City Rd  
Bear, DE

# Tribute Wall



“ Robert "Bob" Edward Kidwell Jr.

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ Robert "Bob" Edward Kidwell Jr.

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ Robert "Bob" Edward Kidwell Jr.

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

FK

“ I am so sorry that I lost track of Bob. He was my first boss in a real engineering job. And I was a real piece of work. Bob was a kind and caring mentor, who was a technical expert at an age when many had retreated to their laurels. I was shown a world of endless possibilities by Bob. I am so glad he saw my potential and believed in me.

Nowadays, I spend my time as engineering lead to the third generation cosmology mission. The third generation to the one Bob introduced me to in 1982. My hope and dream is that it will be the vehicle that enables folks who are just starting their careers to light their inner fire and continue the dream.

And it all is possible because Bob believed in a 22 year old with an attitude.

Thanks. You changed my life.

And what I do today is driven by your actions. Mentor all who keep showing up. Even the smartass kid may someday turn out OK.

Thanks,

Frank

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Frank Kirchman - June 08, 2017 at 08:54 PM

EP

“ I joined Goddard in March of 1962. Bob was the Section Head and my boss. He was the FIRST Goddard thermal engineer and was directly responsible for the design of many of the early flight missions. He mentored all of his 'people' in a 'technology' that had little or no precedent; no universities or text books to refer to. Bob had patience, well beyond the average, as he mentored his 'students' on 'how' to do it. He was a true gentleman, as Ted has noted. His imprint on the 'best of Goddard engineering' is with us today.

*When Goddard establishes a 'Hall of Fame", Bob will be a 'charter member'. Deepest condolences to Mary and the family.*

*Ed Powers*

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**Ed Powers** - November 01, 2014 at 10:59 AM

TM

“ Bob was Assistant Head of the Thermophysics Branch at NASA Goddard Spaceflight Center when I joined the Branch (1 year out of college) in 1970. Several of us who joined the Branch about then were given on-the-job-training for the specialty field of developing the thermal control systems for NASA scientific satellites. The training consisted of about three months of daily instruction in the form of a classroom-type presentation that Bob personally developed and presented to us. Bob was one of the developers of this expertise when he first joined Goddard in it's early days, and the course he gave us was comprehensive, and he kept it interesting. We developed a wonderful relationship with him during these first three months - it was much better than school! This became what was known in the Branch in later years as the "Kidwell" course, and I kept the notes from that class and referred back to them all during my 40 year career at Goddard. But mostly I remember Bob as a very calm, kind and patient mentor who was always available to help out with a problem. He will be missed.

*Ted Michalek*

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**Ted Michalek** - November 01, 2014 at 10:07 AM

JT

“ Jean McManus Tydings and Jackie McManus Fraber wish to send our condolences to the family of Robert Kidwell. We were next-door neighbors back in the 1960's, and remember Mr. Kidwell's very nice smile and demeanor. We particularly remember how much he enjoyed his job at NASA because he would sometimes come over and ask us if we wanted to come outside to see a meteor shower, or something similar. We very much enjoyed that! We occasionally babysat four (or five?) little Kidwells until they needed a bigger house and moved to Silver Spring. They were very sweet children. We particularly remember that Michael had a fondness for Jackie (she probably snuck him cookies or something!), and would sometimes hear him yelling for "Jackeeeee" from his front yard!

Mr. Kidwell was a very nice man, and we were happy to have him and his wife and children as neighbors. We were not surprised that he earned and deserved a life of longevity.

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**Jean McManus Tydings** - October 31, 2014 at 03:43 PM