

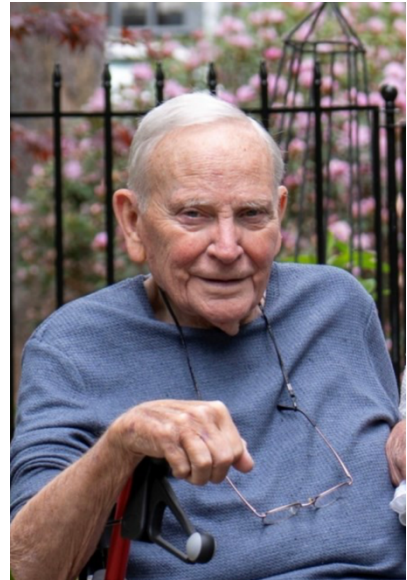
Roger Howard Bishop

APRIL 18, 1935 – MARCH 29, 2026

Roger Bishop was born April 18, 1935, at an aunt's home in Omaha, Nebraska, to Howard and Ruth (Huggett) Bishop. Following his mother's untimely death three months later, he was raised by his grandmother Matie Palmer in Council Bluffs, Iowa. As a boy he loved tinkering, inventing, and pursuing all manner of adventuresome dreams, including flying daring missions over enemy lines.

In Roger's teen years his grandma suffered a debilitating stroke, after which he lived with his proud and protective older sister Dolores and her husband Slim Negethon who taught him to use a workshop to good and full effect. He then lived with his brother Richard's family during his senior year.

Roger's boyhood interests continued and expanded throughout his nearly 91 years. Imagined adventures gave way to real ones. The boy whose grade school picture featured a "Keep 'Em Flying" t-shirt commissioned into the United States Air Force upon graduation from Iowa State University in 1957. He was accepted into pilot training and earned his wings in 1958. Over a 28-year career, Roger logged over 5500 flying hours, including 99 combat missions, primarily conducting both tactical and strategic reconnaissance operations in the Cold War and Vietnam eras. After two squadron level commands, Roger was assigned to the Joint Staff at the Pentagon in 1977 where he supervised numerous command level intelligence and cyber initiatives. Roger finished his career in a senior intelligence billet with Allied Command, Atlantic. He retired from military service in 1985 with the rank of Colonel. His decorations included the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, five Air Medals, and the Bronze Star.



Roger continued to support national defense efforts in his second career as a senior executive with companies providing intelligence and cyber related services to U.S. military units deployed in Europe and Asia. He fully retired in 2010, ready to devote his remaining years to his family and personal interests.

To Roger, none of his professional accomplishments brought him the sense of pride, love, and vitality as did the family that took root and flourished beginning in 1959 when Roger's Air Force career placed him at Clinton-Sherman Air Force Base, Oklahoma. There he had the great good fortune to meet Ann Hulin from the nearby town of Cordell. He was smitten with her smile, her sense of wonder, and her large loving family. She was taken with his self-assurance, vivid blue eyes, and the sparkling promises she saw in his silver pilot's wings. In June 1960 they joined forces and began a six-and-a-half decade adventure set to their song "Moon River."

In 1961 Roger and Ann welcomed son Tory and were so delighted with that outcome that they soon added daughter Jean to the family in 1963. Together the four of them lived in five different states as well as on Okinawa and the Philippines as an Air Force family. During Roger's second career, he and Ann also spent eight years in Germany. Wherever they lived they made many enduring friendships.

Their travels for pleasure took them throughout Europe, across the U.S., and to New Zealand. Some of their most special trips were ones they could share with Tory and his two children and Jean and her husband Kevin and their four children. They took each grandchild to either Hawaii or the Caribbean, joined Tory and his kids on diving trips, and shared favorite European sites with Kevin and Jean. Roger's last big trip was one he planned himself, a driving tour of the Saint Lawrence Seaway that also took in Niagara Falls and culminated with a special stop at Lake Cayuga, a site that had held his fancy since he was a boy.

At home, there wasn't anything Roger couldn't build, fix, or improve. Even during his last hospitalizations, he would routinely critique the functionality of various medical equipment and explain to the staff modifications that should be made.

Roger enjoyed many interests during his life including cutting a mean jitterbug, grooving to the likes of Fats Domino and Neil Diamond, building his own telescope, setting up a home darkroom, and exploring his aptitude for art. He had an enduring affinity for watercolors. In his later years he took special delight in learning new techniques from his niece, artist Ricki Bishop, and simply spending time painting alongside her.

Roger worked hard in his final years to overcome increasingly limited lung capacity and function, and Ann was a stalwart support to him throughout. Early on the morning of March 29, 2026, she discovered that his peaceful sleep beside her had become a peaceful release, and that he had slipped the surly bonds of Earth as all good pilots do. He is probably already arguing with his old friend, Steve Stevens, about who is the better pilot. They both know Roger is the better dancer.

Roger was predeceased by his parents, grandma, sister Dolores, brother-in-law Slim, and brother Richard. He is survived by niece Ricki Bishop, nephew Philip Bishop, and the growing family that brought him immense joy and strength. His wife and sweetheart of nearly 66 years, Ann, continues to maintain their longtime homes in Springfield, Virginia, and Norman, Oklahoma. Son Tory Bishop resides in Bellevue, Nebraska, with partner Cheri Loughlin. Grandson Devlin Bishop followed Roger into the service and is stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona. Granddaughter Madeline Bishop and her partner Duke Hallman live in Alexandria, Virginia. Daughter Jean McNeely and her husband Kevin live in Framingham, Massachusetts, along with granddaughter Kate Ketner and her husband Luke, two young great-granddaughters, and grandson Ryan McNeely. Grandsons Sean McNeely and Connor McNeely live in Norman, Oklahoma. All of them love him as fiercely as he did them and will miss him always. He will be remembered for his analytical mind, quiet sharp wit, and poorly executed pretense at being a grouchy old man.

A celebration of life will be held later in the year. The family welcomes any stories, pictures, or special memories you would like to share. In lieu of flowers, donations may

be made to VoteVets.org, an organization that supports values and principles championed by Roger throughout his life.