

BRUCE SARGENT GOODHUE

9/11/39—4/17/2026

A LIFE OF ADVENTURE AND SERVICE.

This will not be a short obituary.



This is a man who “lived life to the fullest...” and has friends all over the world.

Bruce, was raised on a self-sufficient farm in Franklin, N H, by two college parents. The farm had no electricity... raising their own crops... Cooking on a woodburning stove/An outhouse /and a crank telephone... Staying “warm and fed “was a priority, and Bruce learned survival at an early age.

After being homeschooled by his mother, He attended a one room, school house; where Bruce ahead of his peers, was put in the “reading corner” (the library), reading the classics by 5th grade.

When they moved to the city during junior high school, a friend introduced him to PB sandwiches, and his first job, a paper route with “starvation wages” with which he could buy caramels that melted in your mouth!

He adapted and learned quickly about his new environment and started using his very dry sense of HUMOR that would follow him all his life.

His father, a Forrester, bought him a pair of skis. He later described skiing in the East as “sliding on ice”; where skiing in the West was “paradise”!

He attended the University of New Hampshire for college and the ROTC program was mandatory. The decision Of AF or ARMY came down to “do you like blue or brown?” He liked the blue uniform. He chose AF and never regretted that decision.

Being ambidextrous and having 20/10 vision, he was a natural in pilot training at Moody Air Force Base and selected the KC -135 on graduation. He described pilot training as a “lot of fun!” and “a fairly exciting” job.

His first marriage did not survive THE Vietnam war, He had volunteered in 1967 and became a forward air controller (FAC) with 344 combat missions in Nam and was awarded the Silver Star (Nat’l award for VALOR), Legion of Merit, 2 Distinguished Flying Cross w one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with for a oak leaf, Air Medal with 18 Oakleaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Distinguished Presidential Unit Citation, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award. Etc.

After the war, he chose the EC 135 in Mendenhall, England, where he purchased a TR6 sports car, grew a mustache, and smoked a pipe, and enjoyed the cocktails at the OC ... he was glad to be alive!

Upon realizing he “really liked flying“ (which he never thought of as a job) he decided to make the AF a career.

He enrolled from England in an online base class offering an MBA from University of Utah.

He went on to become AFO Squadron Operations Officer, Kadena AB, Okinawa, Chief of “standboard eval” for KC – 135 pilots and crews, the 707th Barksdale AFB, then on to Squadron Commander of the Elite EC-135 “Looking Glass” squadron, the largest flying squadron in SAC, a “a flying war room,” at Offutt AFB. Bruce was then promoted to Colonel below the zone, a rarity among Single officers.

On to National Defense University, in Washington, D C. receiving the top “Commandant Award” for best research.

Bruce took up running 10 K three times a week, to offset his job, while he served 3 years in the Pentagon corridors as Assistant Director of Operations AF.

On to the War College faculty at Maxwell AFB. The mission was “joint ideas” of Army, Marines, AF, Navy.

Bruce then chose a different path. At the Pinnacle of his 28-year AF career, he chose Retirement...

He defined his “time “as a valuable asset.”

Do what you enjoy!

At 49 and single and very goal-oriented, he accomplished what is known as the TRIPLE CROWN AWARD OF HIKING. 10,000 miles of hiking border to border the 3 major trails. (As of 2025 ALDA has awarded only 806 total awards.)

He completed the APPALACHIAN TRAIL which ran through his boyhood farm in New Hampshire, where the possibility occurred to him in his youth.

He then completed the PACIFIC CREST TRAIL from border to border with his Navy friend Russ Sturgis. “Having the same pace as your partner” was Essential!

Russ then dropped off a road bike to Bruce in UT and said “learn to ride it.” They then proceeded to ride a northern route coast to coast across the USA on their self-contained road bikes, 75 miles a day... and then repeated the second trip a year later, San Diego to Florida. Bruce gave a humorous warning against cycling in western Texas.

Bruce called biking “a piece of cake compared to backpacking!”

Bruce and Russ returned to complete (with his wife Nancy) the CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL, 3,100 miles, finishing in 2005.

He also competed in 1997 in the WORLD, SENIOR GAMES road bike division and won four gold medals at the age of 60. He won the HILL climb in a record time that held for 7 years; the road bike race 37 km (25 miles) averaging over 25 mph, still unmatched.

He always wanted to meet the “right person” and after dating for a while he gave Nancy the Myers-Briggs test and found she was a ENTJ just like his INTJ. I think that was “kismet” for Bruce. For Nancy, it was when he said “he was prettier than her”. Lol They married in 2003.

His humor was legendary and we laughed every day for 25 years.

He was a good man. A great man. He was “goal oriented” his whole life and an amazing athlete. Riding and drinking coffee with the Vistoso Cyclist club in Arizona into his 80s...And a bocce champ too.

HIS WAS A LIFE WELL LIVED!!❤️

He is survived by his wife, Nancy Goodhue,
14660 N Desert Rock Dr
OV, AZ. 85755

And daughter, Mandy Whitaker; grandson, Brock Whitaker; and granddaughter, Mallory Whitaker.

From the first marriage, daughter: Monica and Jack Anderson, and grandsons Miles Anderson, and Jonathan Anderson.

Two sisters: Gail (and Jack Ruonala) and Sue (and Ollie Holt).

ALL will miss him.



