

OBITUARY
Robert Joseph "Bob" Landon
1936 - 2003



Robert Joseph "Bob" Landon, 67, an aircraft maintenance production manager, died Friday, June 27, 2003, at an Irving, Texas medical center, surrounded by his family. Bob battled cancer for 21 months. Funeral: 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Most Blessed Sacrament Church, 2100 N. Davis Dr. Arlington. Burial: Moore Memorial Gardens, Arlington. Visitation and Rosary: 7 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Robert Joseph Landon was born to Anna Lillian Herlihy and Herbert Landon Feb. 21, 1936, in Brooklyn, N.Y. Bob attended St. Ephrems Catholic Elementary School and graduated from Fort Hamilton High School in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, where he became an aircraft mechanic. Bob's lifelong love for aircraft and aviation carried him through a turbulent career, where he survived airline mergers, airline bankruptcies, strikes and two furloughs.

Bob started his civilian career with Pan American World Airways. He attended school to obtain his airframe and power plant license and drove a limousine in Manhattan on his two nights off to pay for school. Trans Caribbean Airways was his next career move. When American Airlines bought TCA in 1971, Bob was furloughed for the first time at Love Field. Not missing a beat, he found employment with Braniff Airways that very same day. American Airlines recalled Bob in November 1973, when he helped move their maintenance program from Love Field to D/FW Airport. Feeling the pinch of the strained economic times, American Airlines furloughed Bob again in February 1974.

He applied for and was hired by the original Frontier Airlines in Denver, Colo. Bob was rapidly promoted and sent back to Dallas as Frontier's DFW area manager of maintenance. After deregulation and the demise of Frontier Airlines in 1985, Bob went to work selling jet engine repairs for the Vac Hyde Company of Grand Prairie. He was offered a manager's position in quality assurance at TWA in Kansas City. After three years of commuting between Kansas City, St. Louis and DFW, Bob sought and won the job as director of maintenance for Express One at Love Field. In 1990, Bob rejoined American Airlines. He worked there as aircraft maintenance production supervisor until his death.

Bob was a devout Catholic and was active at Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church as a Eucharistic Minister. He was a 4th-Degree Knights of Columbus. Bob taught CCD and Bible study and was a member of the Community Service Committee at his church. He loved to play golf. With his wife Babs he was a volunteer marshal, scorekeeper and ball spotter at the Senior PGA Golf Tour for six years and at the Byron Nelson Golf Classic for seven years. Bob was a great traveler and no trip was too great or too small; from Salado to Las Vegas with the family to an Alaskan cruise, Canada and Europe, Bob enjoyed them all.

He took pleasure in visiting with his three grandchildren and was looking forward to the birth of his fourth grandchild in September. Life was good and he wouldn't change a thing.

Survivors: Loving wife of 17 years, Babs Saul Landon; sons, Christopher Landon and wife, Andrea, Michael Landon and wife, Jodi, Robert Landon and wife, Laurin, Edward "Ted" Landon and wife, May Lan; stepdaughter, Teresa Saul and husband, Benjamin Contreras II; brother, Herbert Landon and wife, Janet of Newport, N.H.; sister, Anne Trank of Fort Montgomery, N.Y.; sister, Mary Ellen Clowes of Ormond Beach, Fla.; grandchildren, Joseph Landon, Julia Landon and McKenna Landon; and numerous nieces, nephews and family members.

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