

ROBERT WAYNE BANTA

Obituary



Bob Banta passed away at his home in Bend, OR, on March 15, 2019. He was 93 years old.

He was born in Kansas, where he left home to join the work force at age 13. Within 3 years, Bob owned and flew his own small plane. Bob's first of many businesses was in "Adult Beverages." Before school every morning, Bob flew to a neighboring state for 10 cases of whiskey. He was encouraged to retire from boot legging by his girlfriend's father, the local chief of police. At night, Bob drove the only wrecker in the county. He was often late for class.

During World War II, Bob served as the ship's engineer and survived a torpedo attack that failed to explode upon impact. Captain Bob Banta was a commercial pilot for the original Frontier Airlines. He was know for a heroic landing of a crowded passenger plane in Montana, without the use of nose gear. There were no injuries.

After mandatory retirement, Bob flew four engine freighters throughout the world. A very generous man, Bob served with Shiner's for 70 years. He was a long time member of the Model A Club, Bend Band of Brothers and Quiet Birdmen.

Bob wrote the first checks to start a new church in Bend and build the Band of Brothers Boat at East Lake Resort.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Alice; and son, Jimmy. He is survived by his daughter, Gail; granddaughters, Alayn and Nicole; beloved dog (Charley); and many friends that he considered family.

A Celebration of Bob's Life and Mass will be held at Holy Communion Evangelical Catholic Church in Bend, OR, on Thursday, March 28, at noon. All are Welcome.

Memorial contributions may be made to the youth programs at Bob's church.