



Robert E Hartzel Sr

May 7, 2021

Robert E. Hartzel, Sr. September 7, 1933 - May 7, 2021

On Friday, May 7, 2021 Bob passed away peacefully at his home in Moorestown surrounded by his loving children.

The son of Francis "Tops" and Bernice Hartzel, Bob grew up in the Lawndale section of Philadelphia. He couldn't wait to get out into the world and contribute and did just that at a very early age until he was drafted into the U.S. Army and proudly served during the Korean War.

For the following 70 years, he was known in the Philadelphia and New York harbors and surrounding areas as an expert marine and electrical engineer, consultant and machinist. The results of his hard work on land and water paired with his reputation for unmatched quality and excellence led to countless relationships that continue to this day.

Along with the maritime industry, Bob's thirst for continued knowledge along with his love for antique clocks, radios, oil lamps, machinery, steam engines, books, drafting, fireworks and many other industrious hobbies were the joys of his retirement.

Everyone that met Bob has a story, or two! His knowledge of just about any subject matter, abilities, work ethic, memory and wit have left a lasting impression on everyone. The ability to have a story that enhanced any conversation he was a part of is a testament to his lifetime of experiences. He would tell the story with a booming voice and sparkling crystal blue eyes - all that knew him are not soon to forget.

Bob is survived by his ever loving and grateful children, Joseph Hartzel, Sr. (Denise); Robert Hartzel, Jr.; Beverly (Stephen) Nahill and Edward Hartzel (Lisa Watson) as well as four grandchildren and one great grandson. Also survived by his beloved sister, Joan Hartzel-LaBlanc and very dear friends Ernst and Reenie Hoffman.

He was predeceased by his parents, Francis and Bernice Hartzel, a daughter, Susan Siranian and his grandson Joseph Hartzel, Jr.

As he told his family on his last day - it's been fun!!! We know he would wish you all Fair winds and following seas.

Viewing Wed. morning 9:30- 11:00 am at the Lewis Funeral Home, 78 E. Main St. Moorestown, NJ.

Graveside service Wed. 11:30 am at Colestown Cemetery, Kingshighway , Cherry Hill, NJ.

In lieu of flowers Memorial contributions may be made to Samaritan Hospice, Samaritan Gift Processing Center, PO Box 71425, Phila. PA 19176-1425.

Cemetery Details

Colestown Cemetery

Kings Highway
Cherry Hill, NJ

Previous Events

Viewing

MAY 12. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Lewis Funeral Home
78 E Main St
Moorestown, NJ 08057
(856) 235-0009
lewisfh@msn.com
<https://www.lewisfuneralhomemoorestown.com>

Graveside Service

MAY 12. 11:30 AM (ET)

Colestown Cemetery
Kings Highway
Cherry Hill, NJ

Tribute Wall



“ Bob ... Just this morning, I was straightening bent nails in my shop when I came across some tugboat blueprints he had sent me years ago. "I wonder whatever happened to Bob," I mused. The last I had seen him was at Jim O'Donnell's funeral in Delaware County. We sat together and bawled like children ...

Bob was everything the Obituary said— a true polymath. Last we talked, it was about the expansive power of steam and the reciprocating steam engine power cycle.

Bob, rest in peace. Your old mates remember you.

Stephen Weaver, Shore Engineer

Stephen Weaver - December 12, 2025 at 12:19 PM



“ *Robert E Hartzel Sr*

October 09, 2023 at 03:30 AM



“ *Robert E Hartzel Sr*

November 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM

TC

“ I’m so very sad, I will miss the conversations we had. Bob did a lot of work for my dad, Tom Cook in Sicklerville. Bob and myself shared interest in Steam engines and radios and Bob had me to his home for a visit.

Bobs voice boomed, especially on the subject of the marine industry or old industrial electric systems.

I will miss you Bob, my prayers are for you family, as I’m sure your in good hands.

Tom Cook

Tom Cook - June 15, 2021 at 12:51 AM

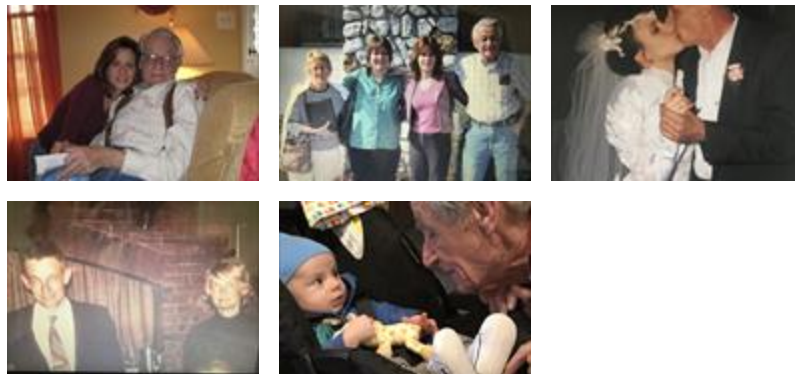
PB

“ Bob was a frequent visitor to our store. He was always a pleasure to speak with and was a wealth of information as well. I will miss him.

PETE Bender - May 10, 2021 at 01:11 PM

BE

“ 10 files added to the tribute wall



Beverly - May 09, 2021 at 07:19 PM

EH

“ Some twelve years ago, Bob and I sat in our kitchen and shared some stories. We were talking about technical mischief that we had done in the past and had some good laughs. After a while Bob said, too bad we did not meet earlier in life”. Reenie popped up from behind the stove pointing a spoon at ours and said “Oh God, you both would have been deported”!

When working with Bob, it Turned out that he had a distinct dislike for European terminal strips. Well, I could not help to use different ways to get some to him. Which he helped along! The photos are his reaction after receiving. Make no mistake, Bob knew the art of retaliation quite well! So now I had to look for cover.



Ernst Hoffman - May 09, 2021 at 08:08 AM