



## Robert McGraw,

February 23, 1955 - September 14, 2009

Robert Henry McGraw, Jr., aka, “Captain Bob”, was born at Jeffersonville Hospital in Tazewell, VA on February 23, 1955, being the first born son of the late Robert H. “Bob” McGraw, Sr. and Bessie Hall McGraw. He lived all of his fifty-four years within a few miles of that very spot. He died at his home on September 14, 2009, just one block away from his birthplace, after waging a courageous campaign with Stage IV melanoma. Anita Jean McGraw, his wife of twenty-five years, was with him when he left, as well as family, dear friends, and the love of too many people to count. Bob lived a life of distinguished selfless service to his community. He always made his living with his hands, but he made his life and his friends with his heart. He was a husband, lover, father, son, brother, uncle, cousin, Eagle Scout, mason, carpenter, wood carver, dulcimer maker, EMT, fireman, volunteer, leader, president, re-enactor, historian, collector, teacher, mountain man, mentor, boss, country boy, and best friend. He was even more than that. As a young boy he entered scouting. Boy Scouts of America was lucky to have him and he was always grateful to have scouting in his life. He rose to the rank of Eagle Scout, and then became a scout leader. Much of his personal growth and development occurred because of his involvement with scouting, especially Wood Badge Training, and his volunteer service to the National Scout Jamboree every four years. He was looking forward to serving on staff at next year’s Centennial Jamboree and regretted that cancer forced him to resign. Bob served his community as a volunteer fireman for almost thirty years, beginning when he

was still in high school. He wore the number thirteen as his lucky number. He also served as an EMT for ten years of that same time. Bob started working when he was eleven. During his professional life he became a skilled mason, carpenter, woodworker, and carver. His stonework is skillful and pleasing to the eye, and you can see his construction all over. He was always training a new carpenter. His last wood working project this spring was building a Civil War Period wooden coffin for his friend to interpret Civil War era, battlefield embalming. Bob loved history; his interest most often involved hands on activities. When he gave up traditional hunting, he picked up relic hunting, using his metal detector to find artifacts from the War Between the States all over the country. He re-enacted several time periods in American history. He learned machinist skills, taking nearly two years to build a twelve pound Mountain Howitzer, the cannon that his artillery group, Chapman's Battery, uses in reenactments several times each year. He established the Skirmish at Jeffersonville as a fundraiser for Historic Crab Orchard Museum. This past April marked the 5th annual skirmish and the most successful one so far. It has developed a reputation as being a well organized, re-enactor friendly event. Bob shared his expertise and knowledge with young and old alike, but he especially loved teaching children. Bob's interest in history and his heritage lead him to membership and leadership in both the Sons of the American Revolution and the Sons of Confederate Veterans, as well as his service as a consummate volunteer and active board member of Historic Crab Orchard Museum, his and his wife's favorite museum. It was the place where he gave away much of his time, skill and talent. Bob loved too many things to name. He loved NASCAR and the History Channel. He loved Egyptology. He loved Dutch oven cooking and camping. He loved reading about the War Between the States. He loved his tipi. He loved his dog, Ellie, and he loved his wife, Anita. He loved his son, Rob. He loved helping people and was at his best when someone needed him. Bob's generous and loving spirit will be missed by everyone who knew him and many, many more who do not realize yet, that he made a difference in their lives. Everyone will miss his incredible

hugs, his twinkling eyes, and his infectious laughter. An informal service to honor Bob McGraw's memory will be conducted at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, September 26, 2009 on the skirmish field across from Crab Orchard Museum. There will be a more elaborate celebration of Bob's incredible life at the April 2010 Skirmish at Jeffersonville. Bob did not want flowers. He wasn't that kind of guy. His wish was that donations be made in his name to the Historic Crab Orchard Museum: 3663 Crab Orchard Road, Tazewell, VA 24651. He wanted the museum to grow and prosper so that it can fulfill its mission of preserving and sharing the history of this part of the Appalachian Mountains. For more information or directions to the Crab Orchard Museum, please call 276-988-6577. Hurst-Scott Funeral Home in Tazewell, VA is proud to be serving the family of Mr. McGraw, and those wishing to express sympathy or to share a memory online may do so at [www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com](http://www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robert McGraw,*

January 14, 2023 at 04:24 PM



“ *Robert McGraw,*

January 14, 2023 at 02:26 PM



“ *I was so very sad to learn of Bob's death. As teens, we were part of a very memorable Sunday School class. The only thing that exceeded Bob's skills was his personality. Bob could do just about any thing and talk to just about any one. He was truly special.*

**Carroll Sluss** - September 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *The true measure of a man's honor is the number of people who grieve his passing. Bob was one of those honorable men who will be missed by a multitude of relatives, friends, acquaintances, students, neighbors and untold numbers who just knew about him and his good works.*

**Millie Grindstaff** - September 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *As a former member of Tazewell Lifesaving Crew I volunteered with Bob and also saw his work at the crab orchard museum. My sympathies to the family. Bob will be greatly missed.*

**Brian Guy** - September 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ *Dear Anita,  
I'm sorry to hear of your great loss. Even though I never had the pleasure of meeting your husband, I have heard from many people what a caring person he was and the great relationship you had. It sounds like you spent your time together well! Take care of yourself during this time.*

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**Patricia Cettin** - September 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ Donna and I send our deepest sympathy to Bob's immediate and extended family.

*Bob and I grew up together. Although he was a year older and a year ahead in school, we seemed to always be involved in the same activities. Our faith in God was nurtured by our constant involvement within the Tazewell Presbyterian Church and the many activities offered. Our love of the outdoors was fueled by the many opportunities provided through our advancement within the Boy Scouts of America. This is most evident in the fact that we became Eagle Scouts at the same ceremony. I include Bob among the individuals that truly provided a positive impact on my life. I consider it an privilege and an honor to be able to call Bob McGraw a lifelong friend.*

*In later years, when time and distance came between us, the friendship never waned. Donna reminds me that whenever the opportunity to get together arose, she could always count on being greeted by a warm smile followed by a heartfelt hug. It was always good to sit and reminisce. After all, those times confirmed that the many stories she had heard about the exploits of the youth that Bob and I shared really were fact and not fiction.*

*Our prayers and love go out to all that Bob considered to be a part of his family. May he rest in peace!*

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**Benny & Donna Nash** - September 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ I want to send my prayers and condolences to Bob's family and friends and his reenacting family. I have known Bob since we were in high school. I remember he always had a smile and a hug for everyone, and never saw a stranger. His spirit will always be in the hearts of his family and friends. You have my sympathy and prayers.

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**Pamela Stevenson Spencer** - September 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

A(

“ If you need anything or want to talk give me call at 9639064 . Sorry to hear this . God Bless Amy

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**Amy Winchester (Jordan)** - September 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

VC

“ We offer our heartflet sympathies.

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**Vince and Marilyn Carroll** - September 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Bob was a longtime friend of mine whom I grew up with, having lived about 1/2 mile from my home. He referred to everyone as having lived on "Dog Road Memorial". We spent many a sunny afternoon over in "the Garden" hog huntin' (translated to anyone else who didn't know Bob as "hunting ground hogs in Burkes Garden")and on occassion would gather with friends for a "rat killin" at the old dump that used to be located in the West End of Tazewell. In the early days we frequented the BBF in Bluefied which was long before McDonalds. We shingled a few houses together and he taught me the finer arts of masonry, even though I wasn't very good at it. Many days too numerous to count of fun and companionship that could fill a book and could rival any Jeff Foxworthy book. I will always remember his laughter and one of his favorite sayings when he would voice his amazement by saying "well, be damned". But to the contrary, I know he is in heaven because he was a good man and I was proud to call him my friend.

*To his family I over warm memories and condolences,*

*Respectfully,*

*Jim Safewright*

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**Jim Safewright** - September 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ Anita,

*My thoughts and prayers are with you. I know that Bob will be greatly missed by a host of family and friends. I never had the opportunity to meet him but I have heard great things about him. I know you will miss him and remember that the Lord is there for you in your time of sorrow.*

*Love and Prayers  
Brenda*

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**Brenda Altizer** - September 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM