

KARPIAK, Robert Ihor Michael (Bob) [UNTD CHIPPAWA 1960 U-1229] (1942 - 2017) Age: 75



ROBERT IHOR MICHAEL KARPIAK August 14, 1942 - September 19, 2017 With deepest sadness we announce the peaceful passing of Robert Ihor Michael Karpiak, beloved husband of Sa'ili, at St. Mary's Hospital in Kitchener, ON on September 19, 2017. Robert is survived by his children, Paul (mother Victoria), Katherine and Michael / Krista (mother Jane); stepchildren, Daniel, Darsha / Lars, and Davida / Steffen; sister Irene / Wayne; and nephews Andre / Karen and Ilyan / Andrea. Robert was predeceased by his parents Zenon and Myroslava. Born to Ukrainian parents during the Second World War, Robert immigrated with his family to Canada in 1949, settling in Winnipeg's North End. He graduated as Valedictorian from Sisler High School, was awarded an Honours BA and MA in French and Russian from the University of Manitoba, and the PhD in Russian Literature from the University of Ottawa. As a youth, Robert was an ardent pianist, scout with Ukrainian Plast, and sea cadet with HMCS Chippawa. As a university student, he was active in the Ukrainian Students choir and the Alpha Omega and Obnova Societies. He completed University Naval Training, and received his commission as an Officer in the Canadian Armed Forces. Subsequently, during the height of the Cold War, he served as Naval Intelligence Officer at Military Headquarters in Ottawa. His love of literature and languages led him to a teaching position at Queen's University in Kingston, ON, and later to the University of Waterloo as a professor of Slavic Studies, a role he treasured for 30 years. Robert's love of music followed him since childhood and he found solace in playing his instruments - the piano, harpsichord and clavichord. Yet, he remained ever a sailor at heart, with an enduring love of ships and vivid recollections of his Naval operations at sea. His participation in the commemoration of Pearl Harbor represented his last Naval duty. We have been so fortunate to have had in our life one who has made saying goodbye ever so difficult to do. God Speed, Dearest Bobby. A Remembrance of Robert's life will be held on September 29 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Conservatory at Assiniboine Park in Winnipeg.

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Bob had 3 UNTD summers: '61 Sioux Div, '62 Restigouche Div, '63 Yukon Div (West).

He was promoted to SLT, sen. 1 Sep '63, O-37747, attached to CHIPPAWA, and subsequently to LT(N).

Bob was Professor of Germanic and Slavic Studies at U Waterloo, retiring in 2007 after 30 years.

It is poignantly ironic that Bob was born in Berlin, Germany at the height of WWII and crossed the bar 75 years later, in Kitchener, ON, which up until 1916 had been named Berlin.

Bill C

"Along with cadets of our vintage, we elected to join the UNTD at the Univ of Manitoba in 1960, following once-a-week evening parades with training courses at HMCS Chippawa for the 3 year program incl. summers training May to Sep in 1961, 1962 & 1963; first 2 in Nova Scotia, on board frigates and at Halifax and Cornwallis Naval Bases and 1963 in BC at HMCS Naden, billeted at HMCS Venture in Esquimalt Dockyard and Royal Roads Military College, Victoria. So, over the years we spent much time training and socializing both in Wpg at Chippawa and the Armed Forces Lounge at U of M plus our 3 summers training on the East & West Coasts along with hundreds of other UNTD's from Universities right across Canada. After the 3 years, we were commissioned and pursued careers in many different and varied professions.

Nonetheless, because of our common experience and reunions - we stayed in touch through the years despite where our careers took us along different paths. I visited Bob and his wife in Ottawa when he worked in Intelligence at NDHQ and also in Kingston where he was a prof at Queen's University and later served as President of The Queen's Univ Faculty Club. During the Montreal 76 Summer Olympics, Bob served as a translator for the sailing events which were held in Kingston Ont, known as the freshwater sailing capital of the world. *Our ID numbers were close, just 3 apart.*"

Ron Paquin.