



**Capt Robert F. Bender KB8ULO \*1920-1997\*** Our family man, Buckeye born from Newton Falls, Ohio - Bob was a born adventurer and brought up in a time when he could engage in his pursuits, aircraft and motorcycles. Born to a school teacher and a business man, Bob was before his time.

Not able to join “Flying Tigers” in China he opted for the U.S. Army Air Force. His service to our country began in Europe flying for a Headquarter’s Division doing photo recon. He would participate in D-Day at Normandy. The photo presented with the P51 and modern aircraft over Liberty would bring tears to his eyes today!

A very talented man, a machinist at heart with a degree from University of Chicago got him far in life. I was very blessed to have known him and his wife Betty as they shared their lives with me. His eyes would light up at a ham fest and we enjoyed attending many together when he was able. He darned near brought home a steam engine complete with a transport carrier one year at Lorain!

Bob’s interest in motorcycles was huge, he had the only Pope cycle in the region and his hearts desire was to get it operational as a museum piece. He told me his conversations with NBC Host Jay Leno — looking for motorcycle parts for the ancient Pope motorcycle.

After Betty departed us, his hearts desire was to rebuild a Bonanza aircraft and fly back and forth from Florida to Ohio. His dream never materialized. Age and infirmities caught up with him and he had to endure a lot of pain at the end. I tried to be a good friend and not criticize, after all none of us leave this earth without criticism and some pain.

Bob was a good fraternal man, many friends along the way and his service to his country will never be forgotten. He leaves 4 grown kids and grandchildren. W8SU 2007