



Robert Furstoss Sr.

July 20, 2021

Robert Furstoss, Sr., 90, of Pittsgrove, NJ, died peacefully, at his home with family, on Tuesday, July 20, 2021. He is survived by his children Robert Furstoss (Nalatta), Toms River, NJ, Deborah Iacovone (James), Pittsgrove, Kenneth Furstoss (Patricia), Coatesville, PA, and Barbara Furstoss, Cherry Hill, NJ; eleven grandchildren — Dina, Matthew, Amanda, Stephanie, Andrew, Robert, Kawyn, Alyssa, Anthony, Justin, Ethan — and nine great-grandchildren — Kayla, Dante, Carmalie, Evelyn, Reagan, Addalyn, Sawyer, Spencer, Samantha; sister Dolores, Rochester, NY. Bob is predeceased by his wife of forty-five years, Janet; his parents, Anthony and Irene; brothers Ronald and Richard.

The second of four children, Bob graduated from The Aquinas Institute of Rochester, before earning a degree in Economics and Finance at Rochester Business Institute. Three years of service in the Korean War, as Navy Petty Officer Second Class, put a pause in Bob's business career.

Following military service and sixteen years in sales with Tobin Packing Company, Bob resigned from the position of Vice President of Institutional Sales in 1969, to join ARA Services (Aramark) in Philadelphia, as Director of Meat Operations and Distribution Services. Bob's twelve years with ARA saw him rise to National Director of Distribution Services, and to Vice President of Sales, Woodhaven Foods. His early years with ARA's food service clients in

government and industry positioned Bob in a supporting role at two landmark historical events, NASA's moon landing and the construction of the Alaska oil pipeline. Bob completed a stellar five-decade career in the food service industry in 1991, leaving the position of Executive Vice President/Treasurer, Deaktor-Sysco Corporation, Harmony, PA. Bob stayed active during the years of retirement from his food service career, including ten years as courtesy van valet with Cherry Hill Triplex, extending personal warmth to his passengers and regaling them with colorful stories.

The Furstoss family is deeply grateful for the caring medical guidance of the skilled team from Bayada Hospice at Inspira. The family holds warm gratitude, moreover, for the patient and nurturing devotion of Amos, Bob's private care aide for the eighteen months preceding his death.

A Mass of Christian Burial shall be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Friday, July 30, 2021 at St. Joseph's R.C. Church, 51 Broad Street, Woodstown, NJ 08098. Relatives and friends may visit family Friday morning 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the Adams Funeral Home, 64 Broad Street, Woodstown, NJ 08098, with Interment at White Haven Memorial Park, Pittsford, NY, at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites donations to the Food Bank of South Jersey, or to any preferred food charity, in recognition of Bob's empathy toward others and his devotion to cooking as a way of nurturing family and friends through a bountiful table.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 30. 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

Adams Funeral Home
64 Broad St.
Woodstown, NJ 08098
adamsfuneralhome@comcast.net

Memorial Mass

JUL 30. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph's R.C. Church
51 Broad St.
Woodstown, NJ 08098

Tribute Wall

“Pop-pop carved one mean turkey. My fondest memories are in the kitchen, holiday preparations, cleaning the bird and, in Pop's words, "Dressing her" for the oven. Mom and Pop-pop spent hours in the kitchen on those holidays and I took a seat to study every step. One year, Pop-pop has his arm in the turkey - "cleaning her up" - and I ask, "Why do you have to do that, Pops?" As you may know, Pop-pop liked a short, concise story, and my response was a nine-year immersion course into turkey - the anatomy and life of a hen, the ideal bird, domestic poultry practice, and a lifetime of wisdom.

I learned Pop-pop went to work at 13, in a butcher shop, followed by supermarkets and meat packing houses until he finished school and he got activated in the Navy. In the Navy, Pops was in the Supply Corps Division, responsible to supply and feed as many as 45,000 sailors on a ship or a base. While he didn't see any action in the Navy, he honed his skills for a career and life in food distribution.

At some point it occurred to me that business was his occupation, but food - for this family - his trade and passion. It was obvious to anyone that Pops took tremendous pride in preparing and serving those holiday dinners. He stood stoic behind those meals - fit for the likes of his role models: Churchill, MacArthur, the Roosevelts... and maybe one of those contemporary leaders in the headlines - should he or she extend a plate – Pops was sure to share.

From behind those meals each year, I think he watched each of us grow-up, he met our loved ones, the babies, and our new friends... On at least one occasion I heard, "Oh, no turkey this year?" to a recent, "...vegetarian." And to the family patriarchs and veterans, he always accepted their acclaim and thanks with grace and humility.

Even today, whether its turkey or tenderloin on the table, I think of Pop-pop and wonder what anecdote or crumb of wisdom he would have to share. I'm so grateful to have those memories of my mom and Grandfather cooking together - and for the time to learn from a

man so proud to prepare and share a meal with anyone at the table.

Matt I - July 26, 2021 at 12:59 PM