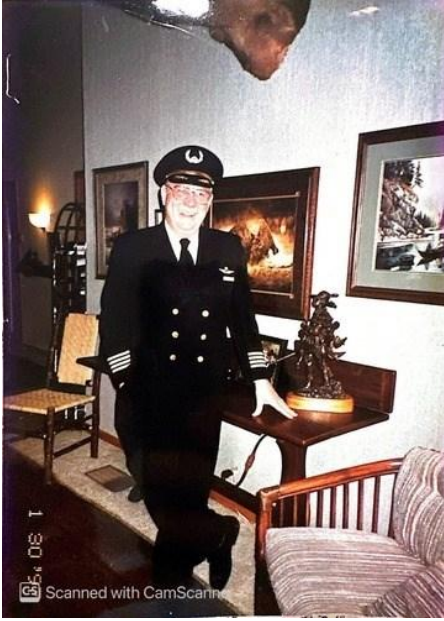


Robert Phillip Rognlien



"Phil" Rognlien passed from this life into the arms of Jesus on 23 November 2024.

Born on 5 May 1937 to Gordon and Myrna Rognlien in Kalispell, MT, Phil grew up hunting and fishing with his dad, sometimes showing up late to school with a couple of ducks in his backpack. He spent summers at the family cabin on Flathead Lake, enjoying swimming and water skiing with siblings. He excelled on the Flathead High ski team, earning a skiing scholarship to Montana State College in Bozeman. During his freshman year, a senatorial appointment to the Naval Academy dramatically changed the trajectory of his life.

Upon his graduation from USNA in 1960, he married his high school sweetheart, Celeste Leitch. Phil completed Flight School in Pensacola and Texas (where his daughter, Leslie Carol, was

born). An outstanding aviator, Phil became a fighter pilot and flew A-4 Skyhawks off Constellation (CVA-64). He completed two cruises in the South Pacific on the "Connie," culminating in aerial combat over the Gulf of Tonkin, shortly after his son, Robert Phillip Jr., was born.

Phil completed his naval service and became a pilot for Pan Am World Airways in 1966, a career that would span the next 31 years. His postings took the family to live in Hong Kong and West Berlin, before settling down on a small ranch outside of Seattle, WA. After the kids were grown and off to college, the marriage ended, and Phil moved back to Montana. There, he married Mary Margaret Little and they lived on the new Eagle Bend Golf Course for 15 years before building a beautiful ranch home outside of Bigfork. In 1991, Pan American went out of business and Phil continued his career with Delta Airlines.

Phil's retirement in 1997 gave him and Mary Margaret more time to travel, enjoy friends, participate in Bible studies and work on his golf game. In 2015, they moved back to Eagle Bend, where he enjoyed the final years of his life with his family and many friends. Phil is survived by his wife, Mary Margaret; children, Leslie and Bob; stepchildren, Shawn (Capri), Ryan (Wanda) and Scott; grandchildren, Bobby, Luke and Stan; and step-grandchildren, Gussie, Lane, McKinnon, Morgan and Nathaniel. He was preceded in death by his older brother, Skip; and younger sister, Mary.

March-April 2025 Shipmate