

Robert Joseph Spolyar

Robert J. Spolyar passed away on 8 December 2025, at his home in Lebanon, IN, surrounded by his family.

“Bob” was born on 7 March 1937 in Gary, IN, to Mary and Joseph Spolyar. He graduated in 1955 from Lew Wallace High School and was very proud of his “Region” roots. His given gifts of a sharp brain, strong work ethic and resilience landed him at Purdue University for one year before pledging to serve his country, beginning at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. Bob carried his love of the Naval Academy with him throughout his entire life. After graduating, Bob wed Marguerite “Marge” Hoffman in Philadelphia, PA. Together, they began military service in the United States Marine Corps, where Bob flew jets. They enjoyed their time in the Corps’ community through assignments in Pensacola, FL, Kingsville, TX, Camp Lejeune, NC, and Quantico, VA.

When he left active duty, Bob took a job as an engineer in Richmond, VA, which later brought the family to Indiana. While working full-time, Bob attended law school at night, graduating from Indiana University School of Law in 1972. He enjoyed a successful career lobbying for clients that included industry leaders in insurance, horse racing, gaming and retail. A man of integrity and honor, he enjoyed a sterling reputation befitting a Naval Academy graduate. Bob’s source of relaxation was watching his children and grandchildren play sports. Bob loved the hours he spent cheering for the school teams long after his own kids had graduated. He loved encouraging young people to work toward their potential. He advised elected officials on appointment selections and always encouraged young people with the right motives to reach for USNA.

Bob was predeceased by his wife, Marge, in 2017. Survivors include their children, Anne Sellers (Andrew) of Indianapolis, IN, Robert Spolyar Jr. (Isabelle) of Carmel, IN, Joseph Spolyar (Lee) of Angola, IN, Stephen Spolyar of Lebanon, IN, Mary Spolyar of Indianapolis, IN, James Spolyar ’94 (Michele) of Zionsville, IN, and Kathleen Spolyar of Lebanon, IN; his brother, Richard Spolyar (Jan Edds) of Carmel, IN; 14 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

May-June 2026 Shipmate