

Tributes to Bob (Bobo) Minnerly

Ralph Cook

I am slowly accepting the loss of Bob Minnerly. We came from the same home town, Yonkers, NY. Bob Grew up where my dad walked the beat as a policeman. I went to High school with Bob's younger brother. His cousin Des was married to a relative of mine, by marriage. That is how he ended up calling me "cousin". I didn't join the crew he was Co Pilot on until his last year in the Navy. That was a great year. Bob loved flying the P5-M seaplanes but adapted to the P2V readily. In Sigonella he was a play director while the rest of the crew were flying out of Morocco to track John Glenn with our Sarah gear. Nothing was beyond his scope of capabilities. The thing that stands out when I think of Bob Minnerly is that his eyes smiled a few seconds before his lips did. An outstanding individual who left a very positive mark on me. They moved to Arlington to be near family. I know Sandy will get the support she needs over the coming months.



Fred Malvin

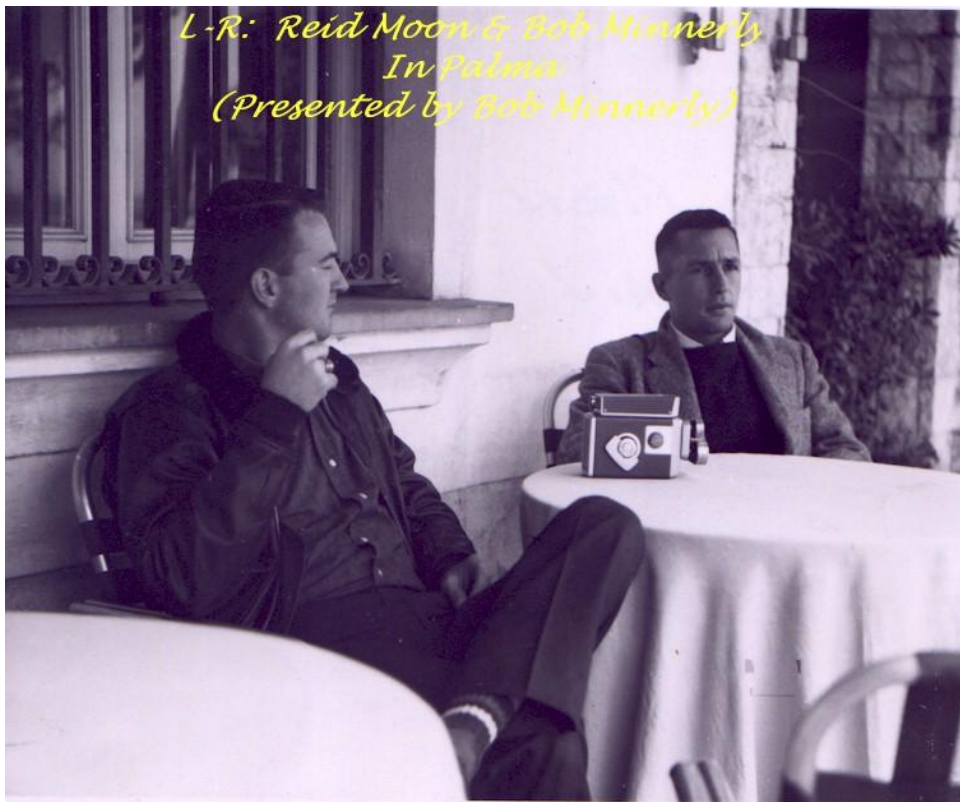
It was with sincere regret that I read of Bob Minnerly's recent passing...Bobo was a one of a kind guy. Once you had met him, you never forgot him. I was in the VP44 Duty Office when he returned from a short P5M "flight" over Willowby Spit where he proved you could fly a Marlin with spoiler boards attached. We deployed to a desolate NATO field – Sigonella, Sicily where he starred in Andy Serrell's incredible play—the Golden Fleecing ..he missed his calling!!! Bob even had the "honor" of being Vic "Crash" Vine's P2 co-pilot...Bob was spectacular in everything he did. I remember well visiting him & family in the Berkshires, where he was Headmaster of a prep school....always a perfect host & someone who was a magnet at a party with his quick wit & pleasant personality. I was really looking forward to seeing the Minerlys at the next VP 44 reunion ..rest in peace BOBO...you will always be remembered & missed

Fred Malvin , VP 44 1960-64

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Les Dennis

Everyone liked and respected Bob Minnerly. Although I knew him only for a short time while in Sigonella, I saw him as a good friend. My input tribute to Bob came from a trip to a British frigate. Bob and I were handed orders to fly into Malta and then pick up on this British frigate for 5 days. This was an exchange program between the Brits and us in order to learn about their ASW. Bob was given the trip because he was soon to leave the Navy and I was there because I was so new in the squadron that they didn't know what to do with me. We were treated royally by the Brits. We had statesman rooms and handed a spot of tea each morning as a wake up by the crew. That was the best



*L-R: Reid Moon & Bob Minnerly
In Palma
(Presented by Bob Minnerly)*

tea I have ever had. The wardroom was simple and quiet. They had a large picture on the wall with a nice peaceful church scene for us to contemplate. After 1700 each day though, the scene changed. They turned the picture around and lo and behold was a picture of a raucus, bowdy saloon scene which meant that happy hour was here. They poured the drinks to us as fast as possible. We wondered why they were so free with their liquor. The answered came from the Brits. It turned out that whenever a foreign dignitary was on

board, the Queen footed the bill for the liquor. So every time one of us wanted a drink, they opened a new bottle to us and charged the Queen for it. Needless to say that was a happy turn for both the Brits and ourselves. The five days passed rather quickly and we were both sent back to Malta for flight back to Sig. We had lots to tell our buddies after that excursion. Bob Minnerly was a prince of a guy. I really miss him after all this time. May he rest in peace.

Les

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Farewell to a mighty fine co-pilot and friend.

There must be a place where Navy pilots go
When their wings get too weary, and their airspeed gets low.
Where you'd see all the shipmates you'd served with before,
And they'd call out your name as you came through the door.

See you there, Bobo,
"Saint" Stephan

