



# Robert S. Didden

SEP 2, 1938 - FEB 3, 2021



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## **Robert S. Didden**

SEP 2, 1938 - FEB 3, 2021

**R**obert Stephen Didden, age 82 of Bethany Beach, DE, passed away peacefully on the morning of February 3, 2021 at his home. He was born on September 2, 1938 in Washington, DC, son of the late Albert J. Sr. and Regina Didden.

Bob attended Blessed Sacrament Elementary School and Saint John's College High School, Washington, DC, where he was a Lieutenant Adjutant in the Cadet Corps. He entered the Christian Brothers teaching order after high school and earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from LaSalle University. While with the Christian Brothers, Bob taught high school in Canton, OH. His faith was a cornerstone throughout his life.

Bob subsequently left the Christian Brothers and taught at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Wheaton, MD. He then joined the DOD Teaching Program and taught in Iceland, Japan, Germany, and Bermuda. Bob spent the last 25 years of his career in St. George's, Bermuda, teaching at Roger B Chaffee High School at the US Naval Air Station. As a certified SCUBA instructor, observant naturalist, skilled fisherman, and daring water-skier, he shared his love of the water with all.

Bob retired to South Bethany Beach, DE in 1994 and provided summer housing for many visiting international students working summer jobs. He had many talents and enjoyed music, poetry, painting, literature, and travel. He treasured his relationships with "his family," be they relatives, students, coworkers, or visitors. Continuing contact with many through Facebook and phone calls, and hearing about their lives, greatly enriched his own. In Bob's own words, "To be remembered by those who have brought happiness into our lives is truly inspirational and uplifting. Please accept my gratitude and continue to use the incredible power within you".

We will miss his keen insight, wit, and friendship to all. He now lives in peace and joy.

In addition to his parents, Bob was preceded in death by his sister, Regina Mitchell and her husband Colonel Jim Mitchell; and his brother-in-law, John Gibbs. He is survived by his brother,



## Obituary

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Albert J. Didden, Jr. (Andrea); his sisters: Valerie Gibbs and Cecelia Weiland (Don); his nephews: Jason T. Didden (Amy), Keith Mitchell (Christine), and James Mitchell; his great-nephews: Sean Mitchell (Cody Heath), Justin Didden, and Peter Didden; and his great-niece, Megan Mitchell (Sarah).

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there will be no public service. A Mass of Christian Burial via live streaming will be held on February 16, 2021 at 11:00 AM. All are invited to join the stream by visiting The Parish of St. Ann Bethany Beach Facebook page.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Ann's Church, 691 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930, or St. John's College High School, Robert Didden Scholarship Fund, 2607 Military Road NW, Washington, DC 20015, or <https://gofund.me/Oelafcal>.

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.



# Tribute Wall

**Robert S. Didden**

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**Valerie D. Gibbs** posted:

Hi Everyone,I composed this description of Robert's fishing escapade last week and thought today would be a good day to share it with you, on the anniversary of his death.Robert's Fishing Escapade Under Chain Bridge On The Potomac River In 1956One day my brother, Robert, and his friend Steven decided to go fishing on the Potomac River. They were either juniors or seniors at St. John's College High School in Washington, DC in about 1955 or 1956.They thought they had planned their escapade down to the last detail. Robert got dressed for school in his St. John's uniform that he wore every day to school. He took a duffel bag with his clothes he needed for after school football practice. He told our mother that he might be late, as he had football practice.Everything almost worked out. Robert went to school and since school let out early that day (which he already knew would happen), he and Steven went fishing as planned up on the Potomac River. They rented a rowboat at Fletcher's Boat House and rowed up the river near Chain Bridge where the fishing was better.The one thing Robert didn't plan on, was his grandmother. She and her friend, Freda, went out every Thursday for lunch and a drive and this Thursday she and Freda had been to Virginia and were returning to DC, and were driving across Chain Bridge, which crosses the Potomac river. Our grandmother looked down from the car window and spotted Robert and Steven in the rowboat.A few hours later, our grandmother phoned Mom and told her that she saw Robert and his friend fishing in a rowboat on the Potomac river near Chain Bridge.When Robert came home that evening, dressed back in his school uniform, he was dumbfounded when his mother asked him what was he doing fishing up under Chain Bridge, when he was supposed to be at school.What are the odds that Robert would go fishing under Chain Bridge on the very same day and time that his grandmother would be riding across the bridge?

Valerie D. Gibbs, Feb. 3, 2022 on the first anniversary of Robert Didden's death.

February 3 at 2:46 AM



**Edward M Vermillion** November 9 at 12:54 PM

as a student of Bob Didden in the mid 60's at Our Lady of Good Counsel HS I have to say that he was hands down ,the most abusive teacher I ever had!! I have looked forward to this day when I could speak honestly of his abuse. I suffered from PTSD as the son of an abusive alcoholic at home. Symptoms of PTSD are often mistaken by idiots like Mr Didden as ... rebellious kid who needs more discipline ... not love or understanding ( that would be the Christlike thing to be.... ironically enough he taught religion too... what a fraud!!) I am quite sure he suffered from more than a few disorders himself. The emotional abuse that he perpetrated on me was horrible and the effects have lasted me a lifetime. May you rot in hell you sob!!!



**Brian Everhart** lit a candle in honor of Robert.



February 12 at 9:27 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**Dick Oliver** posted:

I was a classmate of Bob's at Blessed Sacrament. He and I were altar boys there and bob and I served mass together often. I also live in Bethany Beach and saw him there too. He was an all around good guy.

February 12 at 7:35 AM



**Deborah Warnhoff Enterline** posted:

I am trying to smile as I remember the times spent with Bob as the tears are very close. Bob and I knew each other in Bermuda as we were both teachers at the USNAS. He was so funny, talented, and compassionate. Just a few memories-playing croquet outside of his marvelously, unusual octagonal house in Bermuda; playing bridge and winning; going out in a boat where we ran out of gas and thought we would never get back to the dock as we were paddling furiously-we did; a fabulous dinner he made with chicken, dried beef, and mushroom soup; his shark oil barometers; re-connecting with Bob so many years later on Facebook to find he was still that caring, funny, smart man. Bob has touched so many hearts, and he will live on in my and so many others' memories. Now, I am giving myself permission to share a tear or two.

February 11 at 6:25 PM



**Monty Nearon** posted:

Mr. Didden was my science teacher at Roger B. Chaffee High School in Bermuda. He always had a smile on his face and you could tell that he loved his job. In return, he was loved by his students. Even after all these years, I along with other students from Chaffee stayed in touch with him. Now that he passed away his memory will always be remembered fondly. Monty Nearon

February 11 at 5:33 PM



**Valerie Gibbs** shared an album called **Memories Album**.



February 11 at 12:18 PM



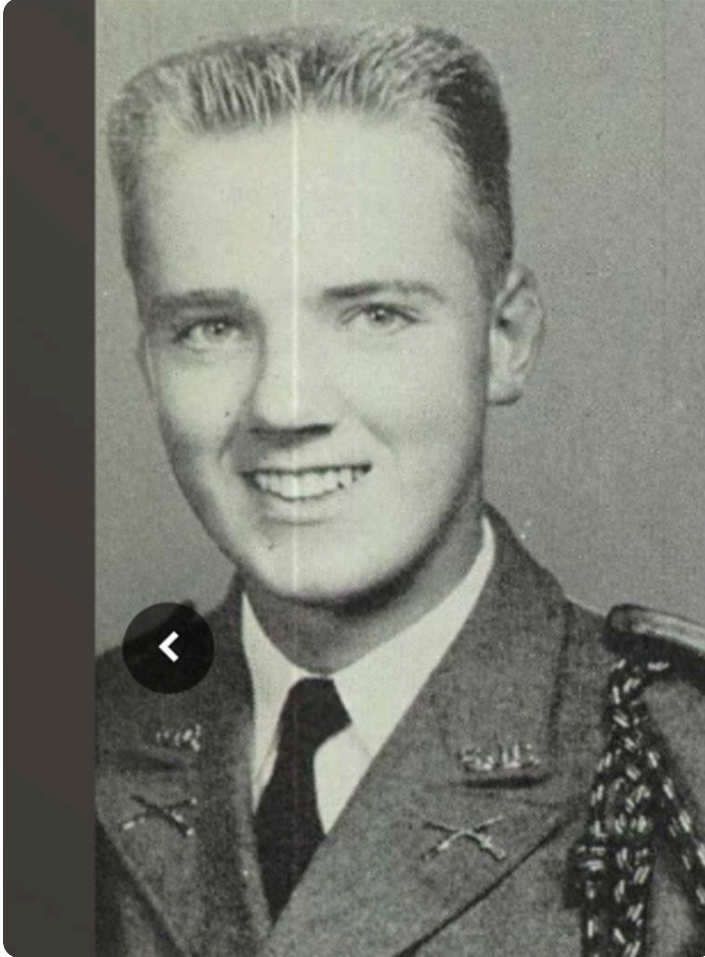
## Media

**Robert S. Didden**  
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Valerie Gibbs shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

February 11 at 12:18 PM



Robert S. Didden, St. John's College High School, Class of 1956



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Robert by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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