



## Stanley Robert Nichols

September 15, 1949 - April 15, 2019

Stanley “Stan” Robert Nichols, 69, of Fredericksburg, Virginia, peacefully passed away Monday, April 15, 2019.

Stan is survived by his wife of 32 years, Carolina Nichols of Fredericksburg; his daughter, Rebecca Shipp, and granddaughter, Alexandra Shipp of Mechanicsville, VA; his brother, Jack Nichols; sister-in-law, Bonnie Nichols residing in North Carolina; a niece, Lauren Nichols; and nephew, Jonathan Nichols, both residing in Richmond, VA; and many esteemed colleagues and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Pauline; and father, Elbert Nichols.

Originally from Belmont, California, Stan enlisted in the United States Army at the age of 18, in which he completed a tour of duty during the Vietnam War. After his enlistment was completed, he pursued numerous educational endeavors, earning a Bachelor of Science degree from UC-Davis, MS degree (Biology) from the University of Oregon, and his MBA from Oregon State.

Stan was hired by NASA in the 80's as a policy developer for creating guidelines regarding the payload capacity for the U.S. Space Shuttle. Over the years, he was assigned into various program/project manager roles that were essential to the success of the STS program. He was one of the primary operations managers for all shuttle launches/landings, including robust projects, such as the “Hitchhiker” experimental research program and the shuttle decommission initiative. After 35 years of distinguished service with NASA, Stan finally retired in 2015 to live a quiet life in Fredericksburg with his wife and cats.

During his retirement, Stan enjoyed spending time with his friends, family, and engaging in his various hobbies. He was an avid reader, antique collector, and a history buff. In addition, he was also passionate about the welfare of animals, which was evident with the numerous stray cats he adopted over the years. Stan generously supported numerous

charities and causes focused on helping others within his community. His generosity, compassion, and eccentric spirit will be fondly remembered and missed by many.

Stan's family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Thursday, April 25, 2019 at Found and Sons Funeral Chapel, 10719 Courthouse Road, Fredericksburg. A funeral service will begin at 12:00 p.m. in the funeral home chapel. Burial will follow in Quantico National Cemetery at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Fredericksburg SPCA may be made in Stan's memory online via <https://fburgspca.org/donate/> or mailed to 10819 Courthouse Rd. Fredericksburg, VA 22408.

Condolences to his family may be shared online at [foundandsons.com](http://foundandsons.com).

# Cemetery

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## Quantico National Cemetery

18424 Joplin Road  
Triangle, VA, 22172

# Events

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**APR** **Visitation** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

**25**

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Found and Sons Funeral Chapel of Fredericksburg  
10719 Courthouse Road, Fredericksburg, VA, US,  
22407

**APR** **Funeral Service** 12:00PM

**25**

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Found and Sons Funeral Chapel of Fredericksburg  
10719 Courthouse Road, Fredericksburg, VA, US,  
22407

**APR** **Burial** 02:00PM

**25**

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Quantico National Cemetery  
18424 Joplin Road, Triangle, VA, US, 22172

# Comments

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“ More to Stan that meets the eye



**Rebecca Shipp** - May 09 at 12:38 PM

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“ So sorry to hear of Stan's passing. He was a great work friend and a real NASA asset. He really believed in the missions and how important they were to the nation and Humanity as a whole. I know he really took it to heart when we had setbacks with the hardware or the politics, perhaps too much so, but if you really care it is hard not to. Since I retired, I know I missed our talks at lunch or in the hall and chewing on each other in payload meetings. I didn't know he was a cat lover, but I sent a little something to the shelter in his name. Again, my sincere condolences. He will be missed.

**Michael Moore** - April 26 at 01:32 PM



“ Thank you so much, Michael. He was very passionate and dedicated to his work, Family and cats!

**Rebecca** - May 09 at 12:21 PM

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“ Rebecca Shipp lit a candle in memory of Stanley Robert Nichols



**Rebecca Shipp** - April 25 at 11:08 PM



“ I love you and will miss you so much. "Icky"

**Rebecca** - May 09 at 12:23 PM

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“ Our family has has many found memories of Stan over the years. A devoted husband, father and grandfather and a man with a generous heart. We will miss him and the many laughs over the years. Robert and Kathy Shipp

**Kathleen Shipp** - April 25 at 08:19 AM



“ Thank you, Kathleen. He did give us many memories and laughs. Thank you, and your family, for attending his Service today.

**Rebecca** - April 25 at 10:50 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Stanley Robert Nichols.



April 24 at 08:07 AM

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“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



**Jeff Fesler** - April 24 at 07:39 AM



“ Jeff, Thank you for posting these pictures and for attending the Service today. Stan spoke very fondly of you. I am grateful for all of your support and it was wonderful to meet you.

**Rebecca** - April 25 at 10:57 PM