

Robert M. Burnham

1947 - 2025



Longtime SASC member, past President and Auxiliary group leader Bob Burnham passed away in the early hours of Friday, Feb 21st following his battle with cancer. Bob will be remembered for his leadership, warmth, intelligence, positive outlook, and witty sense of humor.

A 'Military brat' Bob was born in 1947 and was well traveled, living as far away as Spain by the time he was 9 years old, and finally settling in Colorado Springs as a teenager when his father retired from the Air Force.

Graduating from the Colorado School of Mines in 1968, Bob received the Department of Mining Engineering's Old Timers' Club Award for his academic standing in coal mining and engineering; and later went on to receive his MBA from the University of Denver in 1979.

Bob went to work at Consolidation Coal Company in West Virginia before being called into the Army where he served a tour in Vietnam. He was later stationed at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs where in 1970, he met Kathy, the love of his life, at a Singles Square Dancing event. They married in December 1972 and enjoyed 51 years together, raising two sons, Joe and Dan.

Bob retired in 2011 from his role as Senior Analyst at Edinburgh-based Wood Mackenzie, and founded his own consultancy, Burnham Coal, LLC. One of his favorite quotes was "The most important thing to come out of a mine... is the miner", which speaks volumes about how he valued people.



Bob and Kathy joined the SASC in 1989 and have been members for 25 years. Bob served on the Council and was Chieftain from 2001 to 2003. Folklore has it that Kathy persuaded Bob to attend a Colorado Scottish Festival, where she lured him into trying Scottish Country Dancing, and then asked if he would join one of the classes. Bob replied, "Yes, but there is no way you will ever get me in a kilt!". Six months later, after learning how much the ladies loved a man in a kilt, he was proudly sporting his first one. Bob and Kathy have been leaders in the Scottish Country Dance group since 1993.

Bob once recalled; "I was the Master of Ceremonies at the St. Andrew Ball one year and was busy setting things up when the catering manager came running in saying she had just received a call about the 'Crown Jewels'. Minutes later, the head of hotel security rushed in asking the same question, and I was at a total loss! A bit later, Don McKee showed up and started setting up a display of the Lord Lyon's Collar, created to replace the one lost at Culloden and being displayed for the very first time." (In 1998, Don McKee was commissioned to design and sculpt a Collar of State for the Lord Lyon King of Arms.)



In 2015, Bob and Kathy were honored for their contributions to the SASC with the Tartan Award, presented for exemplary participation in the Scottish Community of Colorado. In addition to the SASC, Bob has been a member of the Scottish American Military Society Post 100 for 15 years, and most recently served as its Vice Commander.

Bob's contributions to our Society are immeasurable and we were fortunate to have had him for the time we did. His efforts will continue to benefit us all, and he will be fondly remembered and sorely missed by all that knew him.