



## **Robert Creston Aldridge** **1926 - 2022**

Robert Creston Aldridge was born at his home in Watsonville, CA, on April 15, 1926, at a time when home births were a common part of life. He died peacefully, surrounded by family and friends, on April 29, 2022, at his home in Santa Clara, CA, his wish fulfilled.

Robert is survived by Janet, his wife and partner of nearly 75 years. He is also survived by his brother, Skip Reaves (Donna) and his sister-in-law, Gayle Oksen. Robert's legacy lives on – 10 children, Cres (Vicki), Jane, Jim (Colette), Dan (Rita), Kathy (Ray), Teri, Mary, Diane (Gary), Nancy and Mark (Robin), along with 32 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren. There are nephews, nieces and cousins too numerous to mention.

Robert's life can be described as a triple stranded DNA helix – intertwining strands in delicate and intricate patterns, each strand supporting and strengthening every aspect of his life, pulsing outward, showering love and enlightenment on so many souls. He can easily be perceived as larger than life and, in many ways, he was.

The first strand of the helix is his family. Robert lost his father when he was two years old. Pappy came into his and his mother's lives. Skip was born. Cousins were taken in. There was only family.

Robert led by example. Family was there for family. He passed his skills to his children, his grandchildren and to his great-grandchildren. There were so many common talents complementing so many unique geniuses for each member of the extended family. When the individuals pooled their talents and resources together in groups ranging from one-on-ones to large work parties, there was no intention other than helping brother, sister, niece, nephew, cousin.

Step-grandchildren came into the picture. They were immersed and known only as family. The highlights of Robert's life were the large, extended-family gatherings for camping, holidays and celebrations.

Of course, without Janet there would be no Bob, no Mom, no Dad. The world is blessed they found each other.

The second strand of the helix is Robert's career and life work. He was a WWII veteran, worked 16 years as an aeronautical engineer at Lockheed, then had a change of consciousness. Robert blossomed into an anti-nuclear activist and an expert witness before Congress and many courts throughout the world. He was a peace activist, a writer, a lecturer, a veteran for peace. For over three decades he researched federal activities to reveal clandestine government capabilities and ambitions. He is credited with being first to warn in the 1970s that the Pentagon was seeking a disarming of a foreign nuclear power's first strike capability. For this he received the third Martin Luther King Jr. Award from the Fellowship of Reconciliation-USA.

Robert was an advisor/consultant/sponsor/activist in many groups and organizations including Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, British-American Security Information Council, Institute for Law and Peace, Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Pacific Life Community, IF (Bill Cane), Veterans for Peace, Non-violent Peaceforce, to name but a few.

His latest book, *The Goodness Field*, is a culmination of his lifetime work and offers direction to achieve peace and non-violence through a proactive global Satyagraha movement (pressure for social and political reform through friendly passive resistance practiced by M. K. Gandhi and his followers), guided by a global constructive program for the 21st century.

The third strand of the DNA helix is self-sufficiency. Robert was accomplished and an artisan as an auto mechanic, a carpenter, a plumber, an electrician, a welder, a draftsman and designer, a metallurgist. He was practiced in all phases of construction, and a tinkerer.

He sought a simpler lifestyle that was less demanding of natural and human resources, "living simply that others may simply live".

Robert saw God's love throughout nature, being an avid backpacker into his 70's, and a tent camper into his 80's.

Robert taught these skills to his children, his grandchildren and his great-grandchildren. It was not just the skills he taught, but the attitude as well, the flexibility needed in life and the creativity in finding solutions where none seemed to be.

Throughout Robert's life these strands of DNA bonded his body, mind and soul into his passion. His life blood depended on the three thriving together.

In lieu of flowers please continue Robert's dedication in caring for Janet by occasionally snail-mailing cards or brief notes expressing joy and happiness of life.

The memorial services for Robert will be celebrated in Corralitos, CA, on Sunday, June 12, 2022. A pot luck reception, Robert's wish, will follow the memorial. For details on the memorial and to RSVP, follow this link: <https://pp.events/aj03P4rY>

