



Robert C Mania Jr

May 19, 1952 - August 10, 2019

Robert "Bob" C. Mania, Jr., age 67, passed away Saturday, August 10, 2019.

Memorial services for Dr. Mania will be held at Harrod Brothers Funeral Home on Wednesday, August 14, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. David Smith officiating. The family will receive friends at Harrod Brothers Funeral Home Wednesday, August 14, 2019, from 12:00 p.m. until the service at 2:00 p.m.

Dr Mania was born in Mt. Clemens, Michigan and was the son of the late Patricia (Jobse) Mania and Robert C. Mania, Sr. He was a graduate of St. Louis High School, Mt. Clemens, Michigan and received a B.S. in Physics at Michigan Tech, M.S. in Physics (Nuclear) at Michigan Tech and a Ph.D. in Physics (Electrochemistry and Fluids) at Virginia Tech.

Bob was a physics professor at Kentucky State University for thirty-three years, teaching a variety of math and science related courses. He also taught at Alice Lloyd College and Midway University. His other work experience included stints at the US Naval Research Laboratory, the US Army Engineering Directorate, the US Air Force Nuclear Research Laboratory at Brooks Air Force Base, and the Materials Science Department at the University of Kentucky. He also received science education grants from NASA and the National Science Foundation and served on the Advising Council for the Commonwealth of Kentucky Space Grant Consortium. However, he loved

to teach and his favorite part of his job was always working with and mentoring his students.

Bob enjoyed nature, often going out with his wife to photograph animals and plants. They even wrote and published two nature books together that included some of their photos: *A Forest's Life* and *Woodpecker in the Backyard*.

Bob loved listening to music, talking about history, reading-especially science fiction and fantasy, and playing video games in his spare time. But most of all he loved spending time with his family and could often be seen petting one of his cats.

He is survived by his wife, Cathy Gayheart Mania; children, Tracey Mania and Robert Alan Mania; brothers, Daniel Mania, James Mania, Joseph Mania and Fred Bantle. Also surviving are his beloved in-laws, Linda and Danny Smith, Sharon and Tommy Hall, Keith and Sherry Gayheart; nieces and nephews, Jordan Hall, Keisha Miller, Denise Cupps, Shayla Overturf, Shannon Gunnels, Ashley Mania, Eric Mania and Brian Mania.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, William Mania; and Allene and Clark Gayheart.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to the American Lung Association and Franklin County Humane Society.

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **14**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Harrod Brothers Funeral Home
312 Washington Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 227-4526
hbfh@harrodbrothers.com
<https://www.harrodbrothers.com>

Celebration of Life Services

AUG **14**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Harrod Brothers Funeral Home
312 Washington Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 227-4526
hbfh@harrodbrothers.com
<https://www.harrodbrothers.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert C Mania Jr*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *I remember Bob from Alice Lloyd College. He was a very smart and witty person who always tried to help students in whatever they needed to succeed. He will be missed.*

sandy conley - August 13, 2019 at 07:20 PM



“ *I was a colleague and friend of Bob's for the last twelve years at KSU. He was in Physics, and I in Math. Our offices were across a hall. My fondest memory of Bob are his smiling morning visits to my office. He would always stand in the doorway, sigh his habitual greeting, "Let it snow," and then we would launch into some discussion concerning history or science or cartoons, or He would never miss a chance to gently needle me about some blind spot of mathematicians (real or imagined.). Bob, I love you. Rest in peace.*

Andy Martin - August 13, 2019 at 12:18 PM



“ I wanted to share a funny story about my brother Bob who recently passed. I have some memory of the situation, but since I was somewhere between 4 and 7 it is more of a story than a memory for me.

He was at Michigan Tech. I do not remember if he was an undergrad or a grad student. Ultimately he completed a PhD in Nuclear Physics at VA Tech. This is germane to the story.

Some men in dark suits show up to our house and knock on the door. My brother Jim (ten years older than me) and I in watching TV. We get my parents, and they quickly shoo my brother and I upstairs. We both hid at the top of the stairs trying to hear the discussion below between the suited gentlemen and our parents.

Quick side story, my brother and his best friend Rudy growing up went to Michigan Tech together. They almost blew up our house (basement) and garage a couple of times building various bombs to satisfy their scientific knowledge appetite.

Back to the "discussion" at my house. Apparently these gentlemen were with the FBI and wanted to know why my brother and his roommate were attempting to procure nuclear fissile material. Apparently my brother Bob and his roommate were attempting to build...according to my parents a nuclear reactor...according to Bob as we discussed this tail just a few months ago (again) it was small scale nuclear bomb they were trying to build.

Not sure if they were successful or not, but given that he held an honorary rank in the Navy for his work with their nuclear program I would guess that it would have worked.

Dan Mania - August 13, 2019 at 09:39 AM

PC

“ *I'm sending prayers and love to your family, I will keep you in my heart Tracey and hope you can find some comfort through this difficult time*



Pamela Hope Cincotta - August 13, 2019 at 06:31 AM

JT

“ *Dear Cathy, so very sorry to hear of your loss, please know you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*



Jean Combs Thacker - August 12, 2019 at 10:56 PM