



VP-49



**Robert Lee Kuhns**  
**Aviation Structural Mechanic (Hydraulics) 2/C**  
**U.S. Navy**  
**27 January 1955 – 26 January 1959**

Robert, the son of **Robert Fredrick Kuhns** (31 August 1917 – 3 September 2004) and **Eleanore Bergstresser Keller** (4 February 1917), was born on 19 December 1936 in Emmaus, Pennsylvania. While Robert was living with his family in Wescosville, Pennsylvania, he attended grades 1-4 in the one-room Hartzell's Schoolhouse in the Village of Minesite, grades 5-8 in a two-room schoolhouse in Wescosville, and grades 9-12 at Emmaus High School. After graduating from high school in June 1954, Robert worked as a laborer for Kuhns and Anthony Paving Company, co-owned by his father and Walter Anthony, until enlisting in the Navy on 27 January 1955 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Robert underwent recruit training at Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, Maryland. After completion of recruit training in May 1955, Robert was ordered to Patrol Squadron 49 (VP-49) at Naval Air Station, St. David's Island, Bermuda, where he was assigned as an Aviation Structural Mechanic (Hydraulics) (AMH) in the Airframes Department, and flew as a crew member in the P5M Marlin anti-submarine patrol aircraft, a twin-engine, piston-powered flying boat. He left Bermuda in May 1957 for assign-



P5M Marlin Flying Boat

ment at Naval Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland, where he served as a Truck Driver in the Air Frames Division until his discharge there as an AMH2 on 26 January 1959. After Robert was released from active duty, he served in the Naval Reserves until 26 January 1963. After he returned home to Wescosville, he went to work as a Truck Driver for Sun Oil Company in Allentown, Pennsylvania, from September 1960



until his retirement in October 1998. Robert married **Nancy Miriam Haas** (28 April 1939 – 28 October 1991) on 22 February 1958 in the Jordan Lutheran Church in Orefield, Pennsylvania. They lived in Wescosville until 1963, when they moved to Warminster, Pennsylvania. In 1969 they relocated to Sellersville, Pennsylvania. On 2 January 1999, Robert married **Phyllis Ann (Cramer) Ellis** (born 20 April 1936) in Calvary Church of Souderton, Pennsylvania. At that time, they made their home in Telford, Pennsylvania, where they settled. His interests are hunting and fishing, and he is a member of Souderton-Harleysville Game Fish and Forestry Association, Inc. He is involved in the Calvary Church of Souderton of which he is a member. Robert has three sons, **Kevin Dean; Roderick Charles; and Mark Frederick** by his first marriage, and a stepdaughter, **Winifred Ann Ellis**, from his second marriage. Robert's son Kevin served in the Navy from 1976 to 1980. His brothers, **Harry Charles Kuhns** and **Rodney Jay Kuhns**, served in the Army, Harry from 1959 to 1961, and Rodney from 1965 to 1968. Robert's father served in the Navy during World War II from 1943 to 1945.