



## *Robert Clarke, S.D.S.*

*Date of Birth*                      *September 6, 1918*  
*Date of Commitment*        *May 16, 2009*  
*Date of Death*                      *January 1, 2011*

*Bob was born Sept. 6, 1918 in Plainfield, N.J., baptized a Roman Catholic, and enjoyed a loving childhood and adolescence, graduating from Plainfield High School in 1936. He attended the University of Alabama to pursue his interest in Mechanical Engineering. 1939 was busy as he finished his studies, began a career with Wright Aeronautics at Patterson Air Force Base in New Jersey, then married his love, Dolores Rose Rollerson. As World War II pressed on, Bob was inducted into the US Army and assigned to the Air Corps Reserve because of his work with Wright Aeronautics. From there Bob was sent to an experimental aviation laboratory called the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics (NACA), which later became NASA. This took him and his young family to Cleveland, Ohio in 1944. Bob retired from NASA in 1979 as the Chief of Mechanical Services supervising over 400 employees. Immediately Bob began construction on a retirement home in Southern Shores, N.C., where he and Dolores moved in 1980 to begin yet another life. In 2000, Bob and Dolores retired again, this time to Ruskin, Fla. and then to their current home in Bradenton. Bob served God, his family, his churches and communities as an honest and vigorous man. He was lucky enough to love and marry his favorite girl, Dolores. Their 71-year love affair created a family of seven children, with 14 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren; and one great great-grandchild. Bob gave of himself as a matter of course - he was a multi-gallon blood donor for years, and active with every church he belonged. In North Carolina, Bob worked with a group who constructed many of the dune crossovers and created public beach parking areas all as a volunteer. He was a frequent and skilled volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. He served as President of the Kitty Hawk Lions Club and rose in the ranks of the Knights of Columbus, becoming a Fourth Degree Knight and serving twice as the Grand Knight, Outer Banks Chapter. In Ruskin, Bob and Dolores started a food pantry for migrant workers. Bob was a world traveler, from Alaska to the Antarctic to Africa, crossing Europe in a camper and cruising off Thailand in monsoons. He had a love of history and de-lighted in walking in the footsteps of the history makers. But most of all he delighted in his family. Survivors include his wife Dolores Rose of Bradenton; sons Robert L. II of Bradenton, and Timothy of Longboat Key; daughters Karen Gibson of San Francisco, Kathleen Truesdale of Los Angeles, Deborah of Bradenton, Eileen of Seminole, and Shauna Sprouse of Richmond, Va.*

*Bob began his journey with the Salvatorians with Frank Tomsik and completed his formation with Ed and Ann Griffin and made his commitment as a Lay Salvatorian, along with his wife Dolores, on May 16, 2009.*

*A beloved husband and patriarch left this earth on Jan. 1, 2011 to soar in a new life with God.*