

Robert "Bob" Yoshizumi

July 2026

Hi guys,

This morning I received an e-mail from Dennis Sarkisian. Dennis worked in the CBPO office way back when, retired as a Col. Anyway, he wanted to pass along the obituary for Robert Yoshizumi from the Sacramento Bee. I couldn't find any more info about him online. So, if any of you have any info about him (jets flown, any good stories...) I'd really appreciate it.

I think Bob retired shortly after I got back from F-106 school in late 1981. I remember that he was flying the T-bird and did his mandays out in Mobile Control with a good book. :) I met him at a couple of Christmas parties back in the 80s, and he always had a great big grin on when he got to hang with his pilot buddies at the parties. A genuinely nice guy.

Anyway, attached is the obit.

I hope you're all doing well,
Aileron

Thanks for the info. Bob came to Fresno to fly the F86L with the 194th after leaving the USAF. He was at Bitburg in the F-100 days and even jumped out of one. Bob lived in Sacramento and commuted to Fresno almost weekly. Good guy and fun to be around.

Mike (Adams)

When I was in school at Fresno State, I called out to the base and asked if I could meet any of the pilots. Major Yoshizumi was on alert that day and invited me to come out. He spent an hour telling me about what to expect at flying school and various other flying stories. I remember that he made me feel like he viewed me as a future fighter pilot and not just some kid interested in airplanes.

R.I.P. Major Yoshizumi. 🙏

W. Ray

“Yosh”, as many of the folks in the squadron called him, was a polite and very nice man. He had a great disposition and offered a friendly smile when greeting him. Bob flew the Deuce but didn’t check out in the F-106, so he finished out his time in the Guard flying the T-Bird.

Sorry to hear about his passing. He was a true gentleman. My sincere condolences to his family.

B.O.B.

Thanks Aile-RON,

Bob was one of the night flyers when I first arrived at the 194th from Arizona (in 1969, yikes!) He flew T-Bird targets for us Deuce guys. I also did a lot of scary darky flying in those days so we became good friends. He lived out on West Barstow and I sold their house for them, perhaps when he moved to Sacramento.

Frank Fukui was also in the Squadron at that time and had come from the Hawaii ANG. Frank was one of the many Pan Am guys flying with us back then. He sadly passed away at a young age from colon cancer. Coincidentally, I was thinking about both Bob and Frank recently. As you know from Chilly's reports Yoda has come down to Seattle a couple of times to start his cancer treatments, we've spent quite some time together and Frank's name came up in one of our cancer conversations.

Your Squadron History documenting is greatly appreciated!

Jad

You are right/ He was a wonderful guy and a Griffin. He worked in Fresno for the outfit that preceded Caltrans. When Caltrans took over they moved the Fresno office to Sacramento. Everyone liked Bob. BO

Griffins,

All true Aileron, well said. Yoshi was a great guy, friendly to the core. When I first got back from Deuce school, my first ride happened to be at night and Yoshi was a night fighter because he had a full-time day job, I was Yoshi's wingman, and during the brief he nonchalantly said that we would do a formation takeoff, fly to the area, do the intercepts and RTB for a wing landing..... pretty straightforward, right? The "minor" problem was that it was raining cats and dogs during takeoff, we're in the weather all the way to the area, during all the intercepts and for the RTB. On final, we broke out at minimums and touched down in heavy rain....but what's a little rain and weather... no big deal for Yoshi, night fighter extraordinaire. As for me, I wasn't too scared, but was really impressed with the whole experience. I thought for sure Bob would make changes as the sortie progressed. But no, we were all-weather interceptor pilots, so suck it and do the mission.

Regards,

Howdy

God rest his soul.

RK. (Scotty Keller)

Interesting. no mention of his son, Niles, or his first wife, Jean.

Betsy and Jean were very good friends.

We did not have callsigns back then, but he was known as "The Inscrutable."

Fr. Guido

God rest his soul.

RK.