

2021 ISD 88 Hall of Fame Bios

Robert Niemann – Class of 1946

A 1946 graduate of New Ulm High School, Bob was involved in basketball, football, track and field, class play, choir, boys' octet, and the editor-in-chief of the Eagle. While he enjoyed participating in many activities, he was most interested in flying. He earned both private and commercial pilot licenses while in high school and gave rides for free. He went onto the University of Minnesota and was in the engineering program, while there he applied to West Point. Bob was accepted and was the first New Ulm resident to have attended West Point. After graduation, he married his high school sweetheart, Thelma Muesing. He went onto Air Force pilot training and was sent to South Korea in 1953. On April 12, 1953, Bob was reported missing in action as his plane was shot down in a dogfight with a Russian-flown aircraft. There was some evidence that he survived the crash and was hospitalized in China. Some believe that he was then sent to Russia. To this day his case remains unsolved and the investigation by the U.S. Department of Defense is still ongoing. Bob left behind his wife, Thelma, daughter, Ann, and son, Robert that was born two months after he went missing. Bob's life was cut short but his love of family and service to our country never wavered.