



Robert Milton Weller
“Frogfoot”

Weller’s Cove, Lake Worth, FL. Monday, 13 October 2008—*It has been a long, five-year struggle with failed kidneys and the after-effects of heart surgery, but even this strong, strapping ex-frogman had his limits. At 4:45 this morning Bob “Frogfoot” Weller hoisted his crossed anchors and sailed his frail craft softly across the sandbar at his home port and into eternity.*

Robert M. Weller, LCDR USNR, Ret., (Bob) was born on 20 May 1925 in Monroe, Michigan to Orla D. Weller and Mildred Speer Weller. Early in his life, Bob, his older brother Marvin, and their Mom moved to Wyandotte, MI with Gramps and Grandma Speer. Bob grew up learning discipline and life’s rules in the Boy Scouts, eventually becoming an Eagle Scout. This was to stick with him throughout his stints in the U. S. Navy during WWII and the Korean Conflict. As a Navy Ensign, then a Lieutenant, he headed up the recently-formed Underwater Demolition Team One (UDT 1) based in Coronado, CA. The Team was sent on crucial missions on the North Korean coasts, where they were to destroy enemy bridges and tunnels. It was there that he earned some of his numerous medals, including the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for bravery.

After attending Williams College (MA) and the University of Delaware and earning bachelors’ degrees in Architecture and Civil Engineering, Bob became a program manager and marketing and sales manager with corporations including Honeywell and Lab Data Control. But seawater ran in his veins, and he was working underwater at every opportunity. In the 1960s, Bob, along with just a handful of other divers, first discovered the hulks of the 1733 Spanish silver fleet galleons in the Keys. His first gold find, a wedding band from the site of *El Infante*, set the pace for his successful career (avocation) as a finder of sunken treasure. After moving from Miami to the Palm Beaches, he and his primary diving partner, his wife Margaret, Bob “Frogfoot” Weller began seeking and finding a prodigious amount of artifacts and treasures —some of headline proportions— from the 1715 Spanish silver fleet which sank off Florida’s Treasure Coast.

Out of their successes in both arenas, Bob wrote numerous articles and eight books about sunken treasure. He also was instrumental in launching *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* and co-produced *Treasure Quest Magazine* during 1997 and 1998. These articles and publications are considered part of the knowledge base regarding the activities of the Spanish galleon activities in the Americas during the 1500s to 1800s. The Robert and Margaret Weller Collection of Sunken Treasures is a body of artifacts which is currently on tour in the U. S. at various museum venues. Patriot, athlete, historian, diving pioneer ... these are part and parcel ... of what made up the man we all knew and admired as “Frogfoot.”

In addition to his wife of 34 years, Margaret Ann Mathews Weller, and his brother Marvin (Velma) Weller of Hope Hull, AL, Bob is survived by his sons Robert W., Richard M. (Rebecca), and Patrick D. Weller, all of the Orlando area; Donald K. (Patricia) Weller of Springhill, FL; Alan J. (W. Palm Beach) and Robert E. Weller (Miami); numerous grandchildren; several great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild; plus a multitude of friends and colleagues. Arrangements were under the direction of Quattlebaum Funeral Home, W. Palm Beach.

The Weller Family requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in the name of Robert M. Weller to:

Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League
3200 North Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33409
PH: 561-686-3663