

Happy Valentine's Day, Bob

You're the sub, I'm the helicopter
whirring across the open sky.
I want to celebrate our partnership
and tell you reasons why.

In the middle of February
with snow and ice on the ground,
I offer you this Valentine
to express the simple and profound.

Robert DeVore McWethy,
born January 5, 1920.
The Heartland of America
nurtured solid values a-plenty.

Starring at the Naval Academy,
the class of '42,
in WW II you won the Silver Star,
but you still prefer Navy blue.

You convinced the Navy
subs could operate under Polar Ice.
Swayed by your forthright manner,
they accepted your advice.

You share genes with John Adams,
yet your individuality shines through.
Striving to meet every challenge,
dependable, intelligent and true.

When we became friends, admit it,
we were different as chalk and cheese.
Whoever said opposites attract
possessed the wisdom of Socrates.

My other suitors were rollicking,
none of them won my heart.
You might agree that marrying me
was reckless from the start.

You proposed to me in a rowboat
on a hot night filled with mosquitoes.
I said *yes* and felt the sting
of clever Cupid's bows.

Except for one place in California
you always kept your promise:
a big shabby white house with books
and old stuff - the essence of bliss.

You've practiced your own code -
dedication to work and duty.
Six children love and respect you,
their strengths the best tribute-y.

You are a staunch supporter
of St. Philip's Episcopal Church.
To find someone who's contributed
more spirit would be a fruitless search.

On the golf course, sailing,
at home with Moriah and I,
you're a capable outstanding man
with qualities I verify.

Showing fairness, patience,
a core of modesty,
Bob, you are a source of strength,
the trunk of our family tree.

I know you like life very routine,
yet you've adjusted beautifully
to my open-ended way of living -
we suit each other to a tee.

This gift in verse is an exclamation
from your poetic spouse:
If relationships were buildings,
ours would be the Penthouse!