



Robert Sharpe Wohlsen

October 24, 2014

Robert Sharpe Wohlsen, 88, died peacefully on Thursday, October 23, 2014. He was born at Lancaster General Hospital, the youngest child of Albert and Kathryn Sharpe Wohlsen. He married Carolyn Wilkerson in the fall of 1947. They shared their love with their family of four children.

Bobby attended public school until sixth grade. His favorite pastimes included sledding in Buchanan Park and being a Boy Scout in Troop 3. He remained a lifetime friend of his Scoutmaster, Cobble Byrnes.

He attended Franklin & Marshall Academy until it closed in 1943 and transferred to Valley Forge Military Academy. Bob excelled in football, wrestling, and track. He was proud of his gold medal from the Penn Relays. He was the City and County Wrestling Champion in the 153-Pound Weight Class in 1943. He remained a lifetime friend of his wrestling coach, Ted Rupp.

His military service began in 1944 when he joined the U.S. Navy and proudly served on the USS Smartt during World War II, USS Europa, and SS Dithmarschen after the war. After discharge from the Navy, he received his high school diploma from J.P. McCaskey High School through the GI program. He graduated from Franklin & Marshall College.

In 1950, he was one of the third generation to join the family business,

Herman Wohlsen's Sons. He began as the payroll clerk. He led the company out of Lancaster County to become a nationally rated construction company. He retired as a Master Builder and Chairman of the Board of The Wohlsen Construction Company in 1994. No matter which road one traveled in Lancaster County with him, "That's a Wohlsen building" would be heard time and time again along with a story or two.

Of the many community organizations he contributed his time, talents and support throughout the years, one of his most memorable experiences was serving as President of the Lancaster Jaycees in 1954. He was honored to have been part of those young men in action: a group of young veterans active in rebuilding, finding their places as civilians and working to make Lancaster a better place. Many became prominent leaders in Lancaster's history.

Being avid land conservationists in Lancaster County, he and Carolyn founded the Millport Conservancy and eventually partnered with Franklin & Marshall College to ensure their gift would remain an educational site for the benefit of future generations.

He was an enthusiastic yachtsman and captain of the Woolie I, II, and III that he enjoyed navigating on the Chesapeake Bay. He reached the summit of the Matterhorn at age sixty and was a member of the Swiss Alpine Club and Zermatt District of the YETI Club. He climbed six of the "Seven Summits" including Kilimanjaro, Denali, Elbrus, Vinson, Everest and Kosciuszko. His boot soles hang on the wall plaque above the words: "These boots have traveled to places most men have not been."

Bob loved his family. He is survived by his children: Lynn Wohlsen Myers and her husband Logan; Thomas H.; Patricia S. Wohlsen Epps and her husband, Ronald; and Robert S., Jr. and his wife, Miriam Casey; and his grandchildren:

Marcus R. Wohlsen and his wife, Kim Bennett; Edward E. Epps III; Peter R. Wohlsen and his wife, Juno Turner, Andrew K. Wohlsen, Carolyn M. Staszak and her husband Ryan M., MD and Theodore S. Wohlsen. He cherished his great-grandchildren: Logan M. and Lillian E. Staszak; Russell R. Bennett; and Willoughby R. and Rosalie M. Turner Wohlsen. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Carolyn, his brother, Albert, Jr., and his sister, Carolyn Ripple.

The Rite of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at the Millport Conservancy, 737 E. Millport Road, Lititz, PA 17543. A viewing will be held at Millport Conservancy on Monday, October 27th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The interment in the family cemetery will follow the service. Please omit flowers. Contributions can be made in his memory to the Millport Conservancy, c/o Franklin & Marshall College, PO Box 3003, Lancaster, PA 17604-3003.

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Sharpe Wohlsen*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *We extend our sympathy to all the Wohlsen family in memory of a great and long friendship that arose between a scout and his Scout Master...*

I carry in my heart the memory of that love and friendship between my father (known as "Cobble" to his beloved Troop 3) and Bob, and the generosity of Bob & Carolyn sharing the family home and the start up of the Conservancy with all of our family. Goodness and kindness always leave their mark and inspire our gratitude. Thank you, Bob, for the goodness and kindness of your life.

We send our blessings and wish you all comfort in this time of sadness and loss.

The Hill-Byrne Family (Joy, Mary, Matt, Pam, Pete, Christine & children)

Mary Hill-Byrne - November 11, 2014 at 11:36 AM

KM

“ We so enjoyed getting to know Bob during the building and renovating that Wohlsens did for the Quarryville Presbyterian Home and enjoyed his interest in our property when Wohlsens built our private home, correcting the architect's errors, and providing such exquisite millwork that twenty years later we still show the Wohlsen handiwork with pride. We also remember his difficult days when Wohlsens was doing non-union work in the Philadelphia area to Bob's own personal danger. We also remember his being on the look out for large stones for landscaping. The Wohlsen family can take pride in what their family has meant to those who have known them.

Keith Mitchell and Lois Dyrness Mitchell

Keith Mitchell & Lois Dyrness Mitchell - November 03, 2014 at 09:51 PM

GR

“ *Wohlsen Family,*
I wish to extend my sincerest and deepest sympathy on the loss of a great man and friend. I had the pleasure of meeting him and mother as he so referred to his beloved Mrs. Wohlsen on every occasion in his tender hearted way towards her. Two beautiful individuals now reunited. They were wonderful individuals whom I've had the privilege of sharing conversations with over lunch at their favorite local restaurant and at work. He was a man who cared deeply about family and it's values and spoke so highly of; education and the importance of it; his passion for business and cherished friendships. His words of wisdom, his encouragement and sweet tenderness will forever be engraved in my heart and mind. You were truly blessed to have such a wonderful beautiful person in your life. He will be missed!

Maria Cofre'

Groff - November 03, 2014 at 10:50 AM

MD

“ Dear Patty , Ned, and family,

Please know that your family is in our thoughts and prayers. You all were blessed.

*Fondly,
Mary Lynn and Michael DiPaolo*

Mary Lynn DiPaolo - October 27, 2014 at 04:53 PM

TJ

“ *My wife, Grace, and I share, along with all of you (children, grandchildren and great grandchildren) a sense of loss at this time of my cousin Bob's death; but there is also the good feeling that we also share about the person that Bob was for each of us and the way in which he conducted himself in life.*

Theodore O. Wohlsen, Jr.

Ted Wohlsen, Jr. - October 27, 2014 at 01:12 PM

DB

“ *Thank you for Bob Sr (as he was known in the rank and file of Wohlsen Construction).
Thank you for being one of the 2 famous Wohlsen fellas to come to Penn State in 1981 looking for young bucks to join the growing company...so thanks for hiring me and giving me a chance.
Thank you for teaching me about construction management and what is important to a good business.
Thank you for sharing your passion.
I will always remember and appreciate Bob Sr for the man he was.*

Dave Brodie - October 27, 2014 at 09:56 AM

DW

“ Wohlsen family,

It's terribly sad for me to hear of Bob's passing, and I send my sincere sympathy to all of you and your own extended families. After meeting Bob a few years ago, we quickly became friends, as I'm sure legions of people can say. His genuine warmth and caring nature will be missed by all who knew and loved him. We had many good laughs together, and shared some sad thoughts about tragedies that we had in common. That empathetic nature and his generous spirit made him a one-in-a-million kind of guy, and I'm sure that all of you have come to know just how that quality can enrich your own lives and those of all you encounter. May you find that joyful memories will ease your loss.

*Sincerely, Dave Wagner
(Bob's friend and barber)*

Dave Wagner - October 27, 2014 at 09:46 AM