



John Stillinger

August 18, 1921 - July 19, 2011

John Robert Stillinger, 89, of Corvallis, known by most as Bob, died peacefully July 19 in his home.

Bob was born on Aug. 18, 1921, in Moscow, Idaho, to Charles R. and Nettie Mae Stillinger. He had an older brother, Rich, and two sisters, Margaret and Marian.

A man of many professional achievements, he graduated from the University of Idaho in 1943 with a Bachelor of Science degree in forest products. At Idaho, he was president of the Idaho Forestry Club, the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and Alpha Phi Omega. In 1943, he was chosen as the Outstanding Senior in the College of Forestry, Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, and Xi Sigma Pi (National Forestry Scholastic Society).

After graduation, he entered the U.S. Navy. Following the Navy, he married Lois in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Bob and Lois were married 60 years, and had three sons, Ron, Ken and Jim.

Bob's first job was at Potlatch Forests Co., as a management trainee at a large sawmill in Lewiston, Idaho. Bob also became a Scoutmaster during his tenure in Lewiston. After two years, he decided to get his Master of Science and doctoral degrees at the New York College of Forestry in Syracuse, N.Y. Following his graduation, the family moved to Corvallis, where Bob worked at the Forest Products Laboratory from 1948 to 1955. He left as the research coordinator to become the technical director of Cascades Plywood Corp., the largest plywood plant on the West Coast at that time. His initial assignment

was to design and build a dry-process hardboard plant to use the waste wood resulting from the plywood operation.

During this period, working nights and weekends, Bob and his best friend built his first large family home in Corvallis. In 1960, he became the technical director of the Lebanon, Eugene and Roseburg U.S. plywood operations.

In 1962, he was hired by Roseburg Lumber Co. as its technical director, to assist in the design and building of the largest particleboard plant in the world at that time. He left three years later to accept his first top management position as the CEO of Wynnewood Products Co., with headquarters in Dallas, Texas, and four particleboard plants located in Black Mountain, N.C.; Antigo, Wis.; Jacksonville, Texas; and Hope, Ark.

In 1969, he was asked to become CEO of Crown Molding Co. in Arlington, Texas. Crown was a manufacturing company producing a wide range of Styrofoam products.

After 10 years in Texas, Bob accepted a job as the Northern American technical and sales representative for the large German equipment company Bison Werke. In 1978, he was asked to become the managing director of a large particleboard company in Scotland that had gone bankrupt. His mission was to revive the company. Over the next seven years, he built an additional particleboard plant and the first medium-density fiberboard plant in Scotland. He returned with Lois to Corvallis, where he established his own consulting company, specializing in management and technical work in particleboard and medium-density fiberboard plants in several countries: New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, China, Mexico, Chile, Canada and the United States. He finally retired at age 77 to care for his wife.

Bob's noteworthy honors include international president of the Forest Products Society, 1967-68; board of directors of the National Particleboard Association (four years); president of the National Plastic Foam Association (two years); president of the United Kingdom Particleboard Association (three years); the Distinguished Service Award, Washington State University College of Engineering, 1984; Distinguished Alumnus, University of Idaho College of

Natural Resources, 1989; Board of Directors, Dee Forest Products, Inc., Dee, Ore., 1992-97; University of Idaho Alumni Hall of Fame (1994); and honorary doctoral degree, University of Idaho (1998).

Bob was an avid lap swimmer and strong supporter of the Osborn Aquatic Center. Throughout his life, Bob was an extremely generous man who helped family, acquaintances and agencies with physical help, advice or financial assistance. He established a college foundation at University of Idaho to help young students interested in natural resources careers. Always interested in meeting new people, Bob had many a lengthy conversation with people throughout his life.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Lois; eldest son, Ron; a brother; and a sister. Survivors include son Ken and his wife, Dana; son Jim and his wife, Rhonda; granddaughter Jillian and her husband, Nic, and, at this time, two great-grandchildren; grandson Chad and his wife, Lauren; and grandson Luke and his wife, Jordon.

A memorial service is set for 11 a.m. Monday, July 25, at First United Methodist Church, 1165 N.W. Monroe Ave., Corvallis, OR 97330. An open-casket viewing will be offered between 9 and 10:45 a.m. at McHenry Funeral Home, 206 N.W. Fifth St., Corvallis, OR 97330.

Tribute Wall



“ Dear Family of John and Lois Stillinger, Washington State University's Composite Materials & Engineering Center sends its deepest condolences for your loss. We also would like to acknowledge the generosity of John and Lois in donating funds over the years to provide scholarship to graduate students. Thank you! With sincere sympathies, Vikram Yadama, Director of CMEC on behalf of the entire CMEC family.

Vikram Yadama - June 24, 2025 at 02:01 PM