



Robert Elton Phelps

October 30, 1930 - June 10, 2014

Robert (Bob) Elton Phelps of Corvallis died June 10, 2014, at the age of 83.

He was born October 30, 1930, in Detroit, Michigan, to Mark Boardman Phelps and Frances Roberta Spain.

When Bob was 10 years old, he moved to Jackson, Michigan, where he attended grade school and junior high school.

Bob graduated from high school in 1948 at Northwestern Military and Naval Academy in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Four days after turning 18, he joined the U.S. Air Force. After basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, he was stationed at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, then Ladd Air Force Base in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Bob then went to Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, where now-Sergeant Phelps met the love of his life, Corporal Mabel (Tee) Taylor. They were married four months later, on January 6, 1952. The next year, their first child, Robert Michael (Mike) was born.

In the fall of 1953, Bob and Tee, with their son, pulled a 22-foot travel trailer from Michigan to Fairbanks, where Bob earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering and played hockey for the University of Alaska. Bob then moved

his young family to Palo Alto, California, where he earned a master's degree in civil engineering construction from Stanford University, and their daughter Sharon Lynn was born.

After graduating from Stanford, Bob went to work for Peter Kiewit Sons Co. in Washington State. The family later moved to Medford, where their son Matthew Scott and daughter Roberta Jean were born.

Bob worked in construction for about 10 years before moving his family to Corvallis, where he became a professor at Oregon State University in the Civil Engineering Department, and was one of the founding professors of the Civil Engineering Management Program. Bob taught at Oregon State for 25 years, until his retirement in 1992. There is a lecture room in Kearney Hall (previously Apperson Hall) named in his honor.

Bob was an expert and respected consultant in the areas of concrete technology (including cement), aggregate-crushing operations, construction methods, rolling resistance, estimating and cost control. He would discuss his belief in "construct by contract" with anyone who would listen.

Bob was a member of ASCE (the American Society of Civil Engineers), ACI (the American Concrete Institute) and AGC (Associated General Contractors). He was a licensed PE (Professional Engineer), a PLS (Professional Land Surveyor) and a WRE (Water Rights Examiner).

Bob was a fixture at all Oregon State Engineering golf tournaments, wearing his 1960s plaid pants, which he claimed never had to be altered. He was an avid bird hunter and fisherman, which he enjoyed doing with his family and friends, and always was accompanied by his golden retriever. He also enjoyed sharing fond memories of the summers during his childhood that he spent on his aunt and uncle's farm in Little River, Kansas.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his older brother, Mark Allison Phelps; and his infant son, Richard Mark Phelps. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mabel (Tee) Phelps; their four children, Mike Phelps, Sharon Warner, Matt Phelps and Roberta Robison, and their spouses; and 10 grandchildren.

Bob Phelps will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

McHenry Funeral Home has handled arrangements and a private family service has been held. Donations in honor of Bob can be made to the Oregon State College of Veterinary Medicine, Small Animal Clinic, through the OSU Foundation, 850 S.W. 35th St., Corvallis, OR 97333, in memory of Robert Phelps, or online at giving.campaignforosu.org, by noting Small Animal Hospital and Robert Phelps Memorial when making the gift.

Tribute Wall

BK

“ To all the Phelps Family, our sincerest condolences for each one of you at this time, and we ask the our Lord Jesus wrap his loving arms around you all at this time of loss. For my sister and my brother-in-law Mike, our hearts ache with yours. As we go through life we all hope to leave our trails marked with the goodness and teachings that will last and carry our names long after we have gone up ahead, Such a man this was, as you could tell from all who surrounded him, Knowledge and faith, probably the two most important things this world needs, and Bob has helped implant that , not only in his children, but the ones around him , a legacy can be described as so many things, we should all be lucky one day to have such an unselfish legacy as the one this wonderful man leaves behind. Much love Bryan & Kelly Martinez

bryan kelly - June 22, 2014 at 08:28 PM



Melissa
Rocque

“ Grandpa Bob- thank you for challenging the people around you to be their best. You lived an incredibly inspiring life and the fruits of your labor will always be remembered. Forever proud to call you my grandpa.

Melissa Rocque - June 21, 2014 at 04:08 PM

MW

“ Dear Tee, Mike, Sharon, Matt and Berta. My condolences and love to each of you.

Bob, you will be missed.

Looking back to 1998 our first trip together to the Big Island in Hawaii. We enjoyed touring the beautiful island with you, Tee, and the kids and how God blessed us with just being together as family.

I was so honored when you and Tee drove down from Or. coming for my mother's (Sis. Vi) memorial service. How thoughtful and precious the memory for me.

Bob, you will never be forgotten as your legacy will continue to be seen in the lives of your children, and grandchildren as well as those who knew you.

We have one more meeting planned! As we prepare for the grand reunion of all times up in Heaven.....see you there!

Tutsie

Marilyn Wood - June 21, 2014 at 11:16 AM

TW

“ We had some great fishing trips Bob, you always humbled and amazed me with your skill with the fly rod and your agility navigating the slippery rocks and swift currents of the Deshutes. I remember well the time in Alaska you woke me at 2:00 a.m. to behold the aurora borealis. We also fished the Baja Mexico, Rogue River, and the only time I out caught you on the Alsea. I'll miss you and always cherish the memories.

Mikes Father in Law, Tom Wood

tom wood - June 21, 2014 at 10:30 AM

TE

“ 5 files added to the album Bob Phelps



Terri - June 20, 2014 at 05:32 PM

TP

“ *Bob Phelps "You're looking good today".... thank you for always bringing a smile to my face. I'm glad on our last fishing trip together that you caught the most and I caught the biggest :) I'm glad all the answers to our debates are being answered. You were a wonderful father-in-law, you will be missed much!*

Terri Phelps - June 20, 2014 at 05:19 PM

TE

And of course I will carry on your love for popcorn and candy:)

terri - June 21, 2014 at 12:31 PM

JS

“ We have lived on Worden Circle since 1985, the second owners of the Jerry Fisher house. "Rusty" used to come and visit, and Bob would come up to pick him up. Our current dog wanders also; such is life.

Bob was a wonderful resource, as one of the original developers of Vineyard Mountain. As the Treasurer of the Park District I have found myself asking Bob about the early history -- roads, water, pool, platting, and much more. I learned much.

We will miss the owner of the first house on the left coming up Concord.

*John Snelling
1420 NW Worden Circle
snellinj@peak.org*

John Snelling - June 20, 2014 at 12:56 PM