



## Robert Russel Adams

January 1, 1924 - July 30, 2016

### ROBERT R. ADAMS

Robert “Bob” Adams died peacefully at home on July 30, 2016, surrounded by his family. He was 91 years old.

Bob was born in Corvallis in 1924 to Russel and Lela Adams. He graduated with honors from Corvallis High School in 1942. From 1943-1946 Bob served in the Navy as Ensign on the USS General Leroy Eltinge in the American, Atlantic and Pacific Theatres. He earned the Victory medal.

Bob received bachelor’s degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of Colorado in 1945 and in civil engineering from Oregon State University in 1948. He earned a master’s degree in engineering from Yale University in 1949. Bob was a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity as well as many honorary societies.

In 1949 Bob married the love of his life, Mary, and their exceptional marriage proved to be an inspiration for their two children, Kathryn and Susan, and for other family members and friends.

Beginning in 1949, Bob spent his professional career working for CH2M (now CH2M/Hill). His positions included Resident Engineer, Project Engineer, Partner, Corvallis Regional Manager and Director of Civil Engineering. He was responsible for all projects involving structural, architectural and geotechnical

engineering, port and ocean engineering, land transportation, airports, and fisheries. He then served as Vice President and Senior Consultant for the firm's 21 regional and 12 project offices until retirement in 1988.

Bob was honored as Oregon Civil Engineer of the Year by the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1978 and as a member of the OSU College of Engineering Hall of Fame in 1999.

Very active within the community and state, Bob served on numerous commissions and boards. Among many others, these included the Oregon State Judicial Fitness Commission (1973-1985) and the Oregon State Board of Higher Education (8 years). He helped found the Benton County Planning Commission (12 years and 7 years as chairman). Bob was a member of the Corvallis Lions Club for 60 years and served as an elder and choir member of the First Presbyterian Church after 55 years in the First Christian Church. He loved music, golf, travel, and most of all, his faith and family.

Both lifelong friends of higher education, Bob and his wife Mary were members of the OSU Alumni Association Board, President's Club Foundation, Beaver Club, 30 Staters, Corvallis-OSU Symphony Society and Music Association. They remained active in their support of OSU and the Alumni Center and enjoyed season tickets to OSU football, basketball and baseball games. They were often seen wearing orange and black!

Robert was preceded in death by his sister, Mary, and brother, Edward. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Mary; daughters Kathryn (Mark) and Susan (Phil); granddaughters Danielle (Daniel) and Julie (Matthias); great-grandson Silas; great-granddaughter Evelyn; and many other relatives and friends.

A Celebration of Life including military honors will begin at 2 p.m., Friday, Aug.

19 at the First Presbyterian Church of Corvallis. The Reverends Matt Gough and John D. Dennis will officiate. The service will also be live streamed at [www.1stpres.org](http://www.1stpres.org). Burial will be at the Corvallis Oaklawn Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to Corvallis Lions Club, P.O. Box 1899, Corvallis, OR, 97339.

The family wishes to express special gratitude to the First Presbyterian Church, Dr. Steven Athay, Bob's caregivers, and Benton Hospice for their extraordinary and compassionate care.

Please share your thoughts and memories for the family at [www.demossturda.com](http://www.demossturda.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG **19**. 2:00 PM (PT)

First Presbyterian Church  
114 SE 8th Street  
Corvallis, OR 97333

# Tribute Wall

DG

“ *Mary, Kathy and Susie:*

*Our deepest condolences over the passing of husband, father, grandfather and my godfather Bob. I have so many amazing memories of growing up with your family, from staying in your home when my brothers were sick, dinner club Christmas gatherings and trips to Odell Lake and all the wonderful things you all did for the Gilbert family. Yvonne and I were sorry to miss Bob's memorial. I continue to recover from lymphoma and am doing very well but do not handle crowds well. I trust it was beautiful. I think of you often particularly you, Mary, who was there for me when mom passed. We love you all!*

*David & Yvonne Gilbert*

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**David Gilbert** - August 20, 2016 at 01:32 PM

PS

“ Dear Mary, Kathy and Susie,  
Mom and I are extremely saddened by Bob's passing. We have had a very long history with all of you. Mom remembers being close family friends with Bob and his family as a young child that continued with you and he for a very long time. All the great friends of the dinner club and church. I loved the special progressive dinner after Christmas of each year when all the kids got to go. I have a special memory of Bob helping me with the construction of a bridge I had to do for an architectural class at OSU and I got an "A." He was a very special man, as was my father and my Uncle John who were his good friends. They don't make too many men like Bob, my dad, and others of their generation. I do think of all of you as part of Tom Brokaw's "greatest generation." Our thoughts and prayers go out to you, Mary, and your girls. Mom extends her heartfelt sympathy to you, as do I and the rest of our family. With a great deal of love,

Connie Plants

Patti Plants Suhrbier (Don)

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**Patti Suhrbier** - August 18, 2016 at 05:29 PM

PP

“ Mary, Kathy and Susie - the heat will prevent my attending Bob's service, but I will be watching and praying for all of you online. Blessings, Pat Phillips

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**Pat Phillips** - August 18, 2016 at 12:07 PM

JM

“ Dear Mary, Kathy, and Susie,

*I've always been grateful that my childhood included fun times spent at your West Hills home, which always felt comfortable and familiar to me. I liked your slide shows, which were a novelty because we did not have a slide projector. I also remember thinking that "Mr Adams" (never "Bob" when we were little) was so handsome!*

*And, now it turns out that, not only were Bob and Dad at Corvallis Manor together a few years ago, they have passed away exactly five weeks apart. There is something poignant about that, I think.*

*Sending condolences and much love to you,*

*Janet Phillips McKensey*



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**Janet Phillips McKensey** - August 03, 2016 at 04:49 PM

JM

*June 6, 2014, Class of 1949 reunion, CH2M HILL Alumni Center.*

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**Janet Phillips McKensey** - August 03, 2016 at 05:37 PM

PA

*Dear Mary, Kathy and Susie - so many are the wonderful memories I have of your family, I can't recount them all. My prayers are with you all. Pat Phillips*

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**Pat** - August 03, 2016 at 06:09 PM

LG

*Mary,*

*Our condolences on your loss of 'the gentle man's gentleman. We fondly remember his kindnesses and grace. Love, The Grubes*

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**lynn and david grube** - August 09, 2016 at 09:17 AM

PF

*Mary,*

*We are deeply saddened by the news of Bob's passing. We have very fond memories of our time with you and Bob when we lived in Corvallis. Your love and generosity to us made us feel like part of your family. I am eternally grateful for Bob's leadership at CH2M HILL. He was one of the people who made it a great place to work and to learn.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

*With love,*

*Paul, Diana, Aaron, and Keri Fujimoto*

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**Paul and Diana Fujimoto** - August 11, 2016 at 06:29 PM