



Dr. Robert W. Phillips

September 9, 1925 - March 3, 2012

Bob Phillips died peacefully at home on March 3 after battling cancer for several years. He was born in Guernsey, Wyoming in 1925, but at age two, his family moved to Santa Barbara.

After graduating from SBHS in 1943, he entered the US Army, serving in the Pacific Theatre (notably Noumea, New Caledonia, New Hebrides and Okinawa) as a Sergeant Major. In addition to his regular duties in the Engineering Construction Battalion, he played trombone in the Battalion's dance band, which entertained weekly for the troops and in special USO productions.

After completing his Army service, Bob attended UCSB on the GI Bill and then went on to obtain his Doctorate of Optometry in Chicago. He returned to Santa Barbara, married Bernice Jelle, his beloved wife of 61 years, and maintained a successful optometric practice until his retirement at age 62. During that span, he and his wife raised two children.

Bob's primary interests apart from his family and profession included community service, travel, music and gardening. Bob was active in the Trinity Lutheran Church and the Downtown Lions Club for decades. He first took his entire family to tour the Orient and, since then, he and his wife Bernice have shared trips to all parts of the world. Upon his retirement, his love of music

remanifested as a trombonist in two senior bands, the Prime Time Band and the Dixie Daddies.

Counted among his immediate family, Bob is survived by his sister Dorothy Thorpe, his wife Bernice, his children Gary and Kori and his grandchildren Peter, Noah, Alex and Alina.

Cemetery Details

Santa Barbara Cemetery

901 Channel Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
(805) 969-3231

Tribute Wall

CB

“ I have so many special memories of Bob (and also you, Bernice) as I was growing up. I could always rely on Bob to crack a joke or just be jovial around me ALL THE TIME! I never saw him down in the dumps. He is definitely going to be missed by many people, but he is now rejoicing with the Lord and I am sure he and my daddy are having a great time.
Blessings to you all,
Candy Murchison Ballard

Candace Murchison Ballard - March 20, 2012 at 10:51 PM

DN

“ I practiced in partnership with Bob from 1982 until his retirement in 1987. His patients loved him! To this day, I smile as I remember his booming voice & some Bobisms like, "sick as a pig" & "son of a buck". I, like Erik J., loved our Saturday tennis matches. Bob, thank you for your WWII military service. Carol & I extend to Bernice, Dorothy, & the rest of Bob's family our deepest sympathies.
Dr. Larry & Carol Nordgaarden

Dr. Larry & Carol Nordgaarden - March 10, 2012 at 09:57 AM

IK

“ Our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Bobby Phillips. We met him and his wife at the SBHS 1943 Reunions. He attended our beloved John Tapia's childhood birthday parties and kept in touch all these years. Bobby will be missed and always remembered as a fine man full of personality and kindness. Please accept our sincerest sympathy. Steve West and Irene Tapia Kasper.

Irene Kasper - March 09, 2012 at 10:32 AM

EJ

“ Ulla and Erik want to share the deepest Sympaty for the loss of Robert, so many Memories, all linvolving Bob, comes to our Mind. The Trip to th Island of Grenada, were Bernice and Ulla vent shopping, forgetting that they were with a Bustour, and finally the Driver announced over a loudspeaker " Will Bernice and Ulla please come to th Bus." And the Traveling with our trailers so many places, Lake Tahoe comes to mind, and the Tennis Playing, many, many hours we enjoyed together.will never be forgotten. When at a Party together with Bernice and Bob, he was the Life of the Party. Robert is gone now, he was a part of making our Life a success too, we miss you Bobo,
Ulla and Erik Jorgensen.

Erik and Ulla Jorgensen - March 08, 2012 at 06:35 PM



“ Joanne Diaz lit a candle in memory of Dr. Robert W. Phillips



Joanne Diaz - March 08, 2012 at 09:48 AM



The Joe Diaz family, my mother Gladys, my sister Diane and myself are deeply saddened by Dr. Phillips' passing. My parents went to school with Dr. Phillips and my dad played music with 'Bob' while in school. He was my first optomitrist as a little girl and I still remember the office I used to go to when he was in practice with Dr.Girsh. I'll always remember what a nice man Dr. Phillips was. My mom and dad counted Bob as a good, good friend and over the years they shared with me many of their SBHS memories (my dad especially enjoyed telling me stories). Since Bob was part of the reunion committee, we have lots of pictures that we'll enjoy forever. Maybe he and my dad are playing music again with the other Music Makers. I'd like to think so.

Joanne Diaz - March 08, 2012 at 10:24 AM