

Robert Berger Lynch
(June 10, 1931 - Sept. 23, 2009)

Bob passed away peacefully after a long battle following surgery for esophageal cancer and the complications that followed it. His widow, **Iris**, (1157 Carmelita Dr., Sierra Vista, AZ 86635, telephone: 520-366-8397, e-mail: irislynch@dtg-llc.com), said "Bob should have won for the effort and time he invested and because of the many prayers from so many friends and relatives, but WE do not get to make these decisions. He was cheerful up to the end of his alertness and never blamed anyone or anything for the misery he endured. He expected to recover and we were determined that he would not be informed to the contrary." Bob had a great passion for God and Country and he will be sorely missed.

Bob entered the Academy with our class in 1949, after graduating from high school in Wauwautosa, Wisconsin. He "bilged" from the Academy in February 1951 because in his own words, "I spent too much time dreaming and reading science fiction". He then applied to the Merchant Marine Academy at King's Point and graduated in 1955 in the top 20% of his class. At his graduation, he received the outstanding marine engineer award, a B.S. Degree in Marine Engineering, and a Commission as Ensign, USNR.

Bob married Joan L. Schmidt in 1955; they divorced in 1976. They had one son, Jan, who with his wife, Janice, currently resides in Elverta, California.

Bob worked for the Aerojet Corporation in Sacramento, CA where he was responsible for heat transfer, fluid dynamics, and overall design of combustion chambers for the Titan missiles and advanced rocket engine systems and finally, as a Contract Program Manager.

While at Aerojet, he went to law school at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law and received his Juris Doctor in 1967. In 1970 he left Aerojet to enter into private law practice. In addition to specializing in Family law, he became a member of the Mediation Panel, was a Pro Tem Municipal Court Judge and taught Business Law at Solano CC and San Joaquin CC.

The April 28, 1971, issue of the *Sacramento Bee* reported "Lynch scores astonishing win". The article chronicled that Bob ran against three other candidates for Trustee on the Los Rios Community College District Board and won an impressive 53.1 percent of the vote over Jack Kipp, the well known mayor of Folsom.

Bob had a flair for going against the liberal trends in local politics and it won him both admiration and derision. Unfazed, he got his share of newspaper coverage and managed to attain great victories such as leading the fight to keep the Hughes Stadium next to Sacramento City College in tact. There is a plaque on the wall there attesting to this accomplishment.

After leaving the Naval Reserve as a Lieutenant Commander, he entered the California Army National Guard serving in the Combat Engineers. At age 59, he received an Expert Marksman Badge with the M16. Bob retired from the CANG as a Major, U.S.Army.

Bob was a lifetime member of: The NRA, The Gun Owners of America, California Wildlife Federation, California Pistol and Rifle Assoc., California Bar Association and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and he was Founder of the Mensa, Sacramento Chapter and life member of the Turtle Club.

He met and married Iris D. Healy Feb 1999 while still residing in Rancho Cordova. He wrapped up his law office and they resettled in Palominas, AZ where they continued their interests in border politics. Just six months after moving to Arizona, Bob saw an ad for Municipal Judge of Bisbee. He applied, never thinking that of the 6 local candidates he had much of a chance, but he received a unanimous vote by the Bisbee City Council. He would have continued on in that position still, if Iris had not suffered a minor heart attack and Bob felt he was needed at home. Perhaps the thing he loved most was being called "Judge".

Bob was well known for his interest in preserving the America that had worked so well for Americans for over two hundred years. As a strict proponent of law and order he could see the many ways that he thought our country was no longer living up to its Constitution and our founding religious beliefs. He was loving, he was brash, he was tough and in his heart he cried for the land he loved.

He also had a compassionate side. In 1990, he found and alerted our class to the fact that **Lloyd Dakin** had fallen on very hard times (i.e., illnesses had reduced both Lloyd's eyesight and his short term memory, thus depriving him of the ability to read). Our class subsequently bought a microwave oven and color TV for Lloyd which **Tom Sing** delivered to him. He also offered/provided free legal service to a number of our classmates.

Bob is survived by his widow, **Iris**; his son, Jan Lynch and his wife, Janice; two granddaughters, two great grandchildren, three stepdaughters, a stepson, and eight step grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass was conducted for Bob on 16 October 2009 at the Main Post Chapel, Fort Huachuca, Arizona. **Paul and Donna Arnold** and **Jim and LaVerne Irwin** attended this service at which **Paul** spoke about their early years at the Academy and how he, **Bob**, and **Keith Schumacher** became close friends over the course of their 4th and 3rd class years. **Paul** recounted events that transpired over their Swab and 3rd class cruises, the ports they visited, and the experiences they shared while sailing across the Atlantic on the **EAGLE**. He concluded his remarks by recounting the anguish that **Bob** suffered during his last days, and how **Iris** provided him strength and support during that final and difficult period.

Following the service, Bob was afforded full military honors which included the Flag folding, the Flag presentation, and the Playing of Taps. The honor guard consisted of seven rifle bearers, including the squad leader. Three volleys were fired as part of the ceremony. The honor guard also acted as pall bearers. After the military ceremony a gathering with the family and friends was held at the local Knights of Columbus facility.

Bob and **Iris** attended many of our reunions and he often called to tell me how proud he was to be a member of our class as well as his Kings Point class of '55. I will miss him and his calls.

'53's Seattle Mini-Reunion

From September 21st to 25th, **Kirk and Jackie Greiner** and **Dick and Meris Donnelly**, with the advice and consent of **George and Barbara Everett**, **Bud and Betsy Mathieu**, **Ed and Joyce Nelson**, and **Dimpy Spadafora**, put on a great mini-reunion!

In addition, these classmates were also able to attend: **Paul and Donna Arnold, Bill and Romy Bruinsma, Ed and Roz Cope, Wendell and Yvonne Driggers, Ralph and Diane Hill, Bill and Helen King, Roger Madson, Hal and Sheila Olson, Ted and Mary Frances Smith, Wade and Sally Smith, and Wee and Jane Smith.**

SPECIAL KUDOS to: the **Greiners** and **Donnellys!!** The **Greiners** arrived home from a trip to Russia just a few days before our reunion started to find their home being flooded from a broken pipe. In spite of having to deal with this emergency, they did an incredible job of adjusting and handling all the arrangements for the reunion!! The **Donnellys** donated all the alcoholic beverages and wine for our mini-reunion!!

'53's Web Site

Kirk Greiner has also done a great job of building and maintaining our Class website, <http://www.cga53.org/> ! See **Reunions** on it for photos and details of our reunion. He has been downloading and reformatting all of the class notes from the Alumni Bulletin and putting them in the protected portion of the website. If you've forgotten the ID and password for the protected portion of the website, they are "roster" and "weesmith" (all lower case and without the "quotation marks").

Our next '53 mini-reunion: Fredricksburg, VA!!

Our next mini-reunion will be during the **last week of April, 2010** in Fredricksburg, VA. **Bill and Helen King** and **Ted and Mary Frances Smith** will be coordinating it. Details will follow. In the meantime, **save the dates!!**

Misc. Notes, and News about our classmates in alphabetical order:

While **Dan and Sue Briganti** were vacationing in Palm Desert, CA in October with their son and daughter, they had a chance to get together for lunch with **Roger and Karen Britt** in La Jolla, CA.

Bill and Romy Bruinsma hosted **Ralph and Diane Hill** at their home in Oceanside, CA on 10/24 before the **Hills** started their long journey back home to Florida.

Bill Clark said "**Ann** is improving from her recent pulmonary embolism and is back playing nine holes of golf. With my new titanium knees and titanium driver, I went back to playing golf this year and had some good successes on the course, particularly in my flight ('old guys'). So the layoff didn't hurt at all. Due to Ann's illness, we stayed close to home this summer but we are looking forward to spending the winter in Florida again starting in January and returning in early April."

On October 7th, **Dan Colussy** (161 Bear's Club Drive, Jupiter, FL 33477, Tel. 561-622-3434) advised: "Iridium Satellite has recently undergone a very successful transition from a private partnership to a public company trading on the NASDAQ as Iridium Communications, Inc. (IRDM). After over nine years of association with Iridium, I am

retiring with the satisfaction of knowing that the company has a very promising future under the direction of new ownership and a strong management team. Given this new situation - please send all future e-mails to my new address: dan.colussy@gmail.com."

Rick Cueroni (5305 Fleet Landing Blvd., Atlantic Beach, FL 32233, e-mail cue53@bellsouth.net) said he's feeling fine now and has from the blood infection that forced him and **Beth** to cancel their plans to attend our mini-reunion in Seattle. **Beth** also is doing great: it's been six years since she had breast cancer and eight years since she had lymphoma!!

I don't think there's any such thing as a "minor stroke", but **Ed Daniels** (206 W. Palmer Drive, New Bern, NC 28560, Tel. 252-444-1149, e-mail: bedan@cc.44.com) had one, and **Becky** sent this about him: "When Ed woke up 9 Oct., he said he felt weak all over, had some trouble walking, so we decided that a visit to the emergency room was in order. The doctor's diagnosis was a stroke, probably having occurred during the night and Ed was admitted. After several tests, it was determined that a blood clot had blocked a blood vessel in the left parietal lobe of the brain, causing weakness in the right leg and a little weakness in the right arm. There was no speech problem. Further tests revealed two heart problems that the doctor will monitor, but at present is not overly concerned with. **Ed** came home the evening of 13 Oct with a walker to give him added stability. The PT says he probably will not need that after therapy this coming week. He has exercises to do each day...got to get that right leg and foot ready to kick PAT"s! We are so thankful that this stroke was no more severe than it was. The doctor said," If you had to have a stroke, you had it in a "good" part of the brain where damage was relatively minor" We are truly blessed!!"

Bud Grader has been moved to the Grovner Park Acute Care and Nursing Facility, on Laurel Park Ave., in Salem, MA in his continuing battle with malignant brain tumor. **Bud's** mobility is limited and he has good days and bad days with his communications **Bud's** family is extremely grateful for all the wonderful cards and notes that have been sent to him -- they read them to **Bud** and are sure they help his spirits. Cards and notes should continue to be sent to his home address, (11 Highland Terrace, Marblehead, MA 01945). His family will make sure that **Bud** gets them.

While at their time share in Vail, CO, **Roger and Esther Holmes** (5590 Old Pond Rd., Dublin, OH 43017 e-mail: raholmes5926@sbcglobal.net) and their daughter Carol stopped and visited **Frank and Jan Frauenfelder**. **Jan** said that **Roger** has been very supportive of Frank, visiting him whenever he's in Colorado and also sending him books. **Roger**, who has also has been teaching a computer course for seniors, is presently undergoing radiation treatments (33 treatments with 6 million volt x-rays - 5 days/week) for a tumor on his parotid saliva gland on the corner of his jaw bone. **Roger** is extremely upbeat and positive about this. his 7th cancer, and he jokingly says, "I'm going to live 'til I die."

Jim and LaVerne Irwin (890 N. Granada Dr., Chandler, AZ 85226; Tel. 480-656-2343; e-mail: jcilmg@cox.net), after spending the summer in North Carolina, on their way home to Arizona, also had a good visit with **Frank and Jan Frauenfelder** in Colorado.

On October 6th, **Bill Kohl**, (8957 Fascination Ct., Lorton, VA 22079, e-mail: wkohl53@hotmail.com), Tel. 301-292-3296) in a P.S. on a note, matter-of-factly said, "I had a triple by-pass last week. I returned home Sunday and seem to be recovering very

well. I'll let you know. Are we having fun yet?" When I talked with Bill on Oct. 17th, he said "I'm doing fine; my incision ('from my neck to my belly button') is healing normally; I'm doing my exercises (walking); and my only restrictions are that I should not raise my arms above my head or behind my back", (which may or may not be a reason for his golf handicap to increase!). What were his symptoms? He was "out-of-breath" but dismissed it; then he had pressure in his chest. An angiogram determined that a stent would not be appropriate and while he was "on the table" he had a heart attack, possibly caused by the angiogram.

Gerry Lipsett (34 Pond Rd., Cohasset, MA 02025 - Tel. 857-205-5034, e-mail: byglip@gmail.com), thanks to help from "Visiting Angels" and friends, says he's "getting along fine" living by himself while waiting for his house to sell. He uses a cane for stability, and because he still has trouble swallowing, he is still using a feeding tube. **Gerry** is hoping that he'll be able to get his driver's license this fall.

Barbara Trainor (14 Wellesley Rd., Scituate, MA 02066, Tel. 781-545-7942, e-mail: btrain14@comcast.net) said that **Gene**, who was 81 years old on October 12th, remains in a Hingham, MA nursing home, and sadly he can no longer walk and his ability to communicate is very limited. In a most beautiful and touching moment, however, on October 28th they celebrated their 8th wedding anniversary, Barbara brought some champagne (which she had to spoon-feed to **Gene**) and **Gene's** nurses bought a dozen red roses for him to give to **Barbara!!**

CGA Football - Trick or Treat?

On Halloween, CGA (3-5 overall, 3-3 in the conference) lost to Maine Maritime Academy (7-1,5-1) in a New England Football Conference "shoot-out", 49-76. That score is NOT a typo, and unfortunately MMA set an NCAA Division II/III record with 730 yards rushing in the game. (The NCAA all-divisions record for rushing is 768 yards by Oklahoma against Kansas State in 1988).

On the bright side, CGA fourth classman quarterback Jon Resch set a CGA record with 469 yards passing and six touchdowns. He tied the CGA record for completions with 34 (in 46 attempts and only one interception). First classman end Sam England caught a career-high 10 passes and became CGA's career leader in receptions with 157.

Health Advice from Ed Nelson

If you receive an e-mail from the Department of Health telling you not to eat canned pork because of swine flu. Ignore it. It's just "Spam".