

**Robert I. Wakeley, MPH
1923-2016**

Robert I. Wakeley was born August 5, 1923 in Waterbury, CT and died peacefully in his sleep on September 22nd at the age of 93 in La Jolla, CA. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Virginia, his five daughters: Patricia, Barbara, Ellen, Joan and Diane, his eight grandchildren: Margaret, Jennifer, Lauren, Patrice, Eric, Robert, Cole and Sarah and four great-grandchildren: Nora, Edie, Corlis and Lucas.

Bob graduated from Springfield College in 1948 and with the help of an American Cancer Society fellowship, received his Masters in Public Health from the University of North Carolina in 1950.

During World War II, Bob served one year in the Coast Guard protecting New York harbor. He then transferred to the Navy, trained to be a pilot and ended his service as a pilot instructor in Pensacola Florida. In 1951 he worked for the Public Health Dept in Greeley, CO and in 1952, began his career as a Public Education Director for the American Cancer Society (ACS), Connecticut Division. He held increasingly responsible positions for the ACS over the next 36 years eventually, rising to the post of Executive Vice President for the California Division in 1983. He served in that role until his retirement in 1988.

Throughout his life, Bob was an active volunteer serving as a member of the Board of Education in Wallingford, CT, the St. Leo's Parish board of directors in Oakland, CA, and in a variety of other community service capacities such as coaching women's basketball and volunteering for the Alzheimer's Home in Oakland, CA.

Bob enjoyed sailing his 25 foot Catalina sailboat, the "Virginia", in the San Francisco Bay and kayaking in the Sacramento Delta with his daughters. Bob loved music. He played the clarinet, saxophone, drums, guitar and the washboard. He was an outdoor enthusiast who frequently camped, swam, skied, played tennis and hiked. He was a world explorer and with his wife Virginia traveled to almost every corner of the earth including many parts of Asia, Europe, South America, Central America and to almost every state in the U.S.. Bob was deeply loved by his wife and family, always optimistic, and by his own account, never had a bad day in his life.

A memorial service will be held 10:00 a.m. Friday, November 25th at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, 5810 Midway Rd, Dixon, CA. In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions to the [American Cancer Society](#) and/or Springfield College.