



Robert "Bob" M. Elkin

November 23, 1952 - October 11, 2025

Robert (Bob) M. Elkin, brilliant and deeply kind, was someone who quietly made life better for countless people around him. He died peacefully at home in Asheville, North Carolina, on Saturday, October 11. He was 72.

Bob was born on November 23, 1952, in Brooklyn, New York, to Herbert and Rose (Ginsberg) Elkin. A lifelong learner with a deep curiosity about how things work, Bob was fascinated by science and math from a young age, creating a science project on how computers functioned while still in elementary school at PS 249. He attended Erasmus Hall High School where he was editor of the school newspaper. Summers spent at his grandparents' cottage by the beach in the Rockaways were among his happiest childhood memories.

In 1969, Bob enrolled at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he earned dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Electrical Engineering and Management. He served as president of MIT's chapter of the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity and had many roles, including Publisher, of MIT's student newspaper, The Tech.

Bob met his wife of 49 years, Eileen, while on an organized singles trip floating down the Apple River in Wisconsin. They married on June 12, 1977, and together raised two daughters, Hannah and Mollie, first in Minnesota, and

then in Florida.

Bob's professional life reflected his intellect and versatility. He spent more than 20 years in leadership roles at the Minneapolis Star Tribune and the Miami Herald before moving into magazine circulation at Palm Coast Data. He later launched a second career as a management consultant serving small businesses and nonprofits, including the Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Community was central to Bob's life, and he was deeply involved wherever he lived. He was especially proud of the two decades he spent facilitating children's and adults' grief support groups with Begin Again in Ormond Beach, Florida, often saying it was his most meaningful volunteer experience. After moving to Asheville in 2017, Bob became active with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, where he helped plan its Leadership Asheville for Seniors program for more than five years and served on its Finance Advisory Committee. He also volunteered with the Buncombe County Council on Aging, helping people navigate Medicare, as well as with his synagogue, Congregation Beth Israel.

Bob enjoyed hiking, yoga, dance and movement to music, and strength training, and his time at the Woodfin YMCA became an important part of his life in retirement.

Bob is survived by his wife, Eileen Elkin; his two children, Hannah Zollman (Adam) and Mollie Levin (Matt); three grandchildren (Jonah, Alana, and Zoe); and siblings Barbara Elkin (Paul) and Steve Elkin (Tomi).

A graveside funeral will be held on Sunday, October 19th, at 2 PM at Lou Pollock Memorial Park in Asheville, NC.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Bob's honor to direct service organizations serving children and families who are grieving.

Cemetery Details

Lou Pollock Cemetery

North Louisiana Avenue
Asheville, NC 28806

Previous Events

Graveside

OCT 19. 2:00 PM (ET)

Lou Pollock Memorial Park
340 N Louisiana Ave
Asheville, NC 28806

Tribute Wall

MS

“ Bob and I worked together at Palm Coast Data back in the early - mid 2000s. Bob was sharp as a tack and a wonderful partner and advisor to the management team during his years at PCD. Whenever something difficult needed to get thought through or accomplished, Bob was right there to help.

My condolences to his family, he was a special guy.

Mike Speichinger - November 05, 2025 at 08:04 PM

DL

“ David L. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Bob" M. Elkin.

David L. - October 19, 2025 at 01:19 PM

LL

“ I met Bob and Eileen through our daughters, Mollie and Emily at Children's Musical Theater. One of the kindest families I've ever known. Sending my deepest sympathies to everyone.

Lois Lang - October 19, 2025 at 07:48 AM

JW

“ Bob and I worked together on several community boards in Flagler County, including the Flagler Chamber of Commerce. He was a caring and dedicated volunteer. We also worked together again in Ormond Beach too. We will miss him.

James Weite - October 19, 2025 at 07:34 AM

NC

“ Bob and I participated in a lot of the same classes at the Woodfin YMCA. He was one of a handful of men that were brave enough to come dance with us in a studio with probably 95% women. And we shared a love for yoga, as well.
Bob also was instrumental in my husband and I saving about \$80 a month helping us switch prescription drug plans. He was a wealth of knowledge and it wouldn't have happened without his help.
My heart goes out to his family.

Nancy Camp - October 18, 2025 at 06:13 PM

EL

“ With our regrets we are unable to be with you Sunday but want you to know you are in our thoughts and pass our condolences on to your family.
We want you to know how delighted we were when Bob showed up at our last gazebo get together. He seemed so happy to be chatting with all the guys that when he left he was missed.
Eleanor and Hal Levine

Eleanor and Hal Levine - October 17, 2025 at 11:24 PM

MM

“ I had the pleasure of volunteering alongside Bob at Camp BeginAgain for many years. Bob was so kind and compassionate with the kids and truly loved providing support to them. RIP

Mark Monteith - October 17, 2025 at 10:33 PM

KH

“ Here at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) we staff members are feeling the loss of Bob deeply. He contributed so many things to this community of active seniors. Personally I benefitted greatly from Bob's tutelage, which gave me insight into his keen and analytical mind. To Eileen and the family we are all sending our love and condolences.

Karin Hedberg - October 16, 2025 at 01:40 PM

CF

“ All of Bob's friends and admirers at OLLI are so grateful to have known Bob and to have benefitted by his intelligence, diligence and kindness. Our thoughts are with you, Eileen. Please call on any of us if we can support you.

Catherine Frank - October 16, 2025 at 01:20 PM

LJ

“ Bob was a valued volunteer for Leadership Asheville Seniors for years. He helped with whatever I needed help with and brought his enthusiasm for the program and expertise to everything he did. I appreciated working with him so much and send sincerest condolences to his family.



Laurel Jernigan - October 16, 2025 at 01:19 PM