



Mr. Robert Emerson Holey

March 23, 1927 - February 9, 2014

Robert Emerson Holey passed away on February 9, 2014 in Black Mountain, North Carolina at the age of 86. Born in Toledo, Ohio on March 23, 1927 to parents Ralph Emerson and Nina May (Sweeny) Holey, Bob was the oldest of three boys.

After graduating from Whitmer High School in Toledo, Ohio in 1945, he served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific from May 1945 to July 1946. He received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Toledo in 1950. Bob married Betty Joan Smith of Toledo, Ohio at Trilby Methodist Church on August 21, 1948 and started his professional career with Micro Switch (a division of Honeywell Corporation) after he and Betty moved to Freeport, Illinois in 1952. They started their family shortly after and raised their three children, John Edward (1953), Mark Emerson (1954), and Carole Jean (1961) in Freeport. In 1970, Bob was hired by American Pencil Sharpener Company (APSCO) in Rockford, Illinois. In 1973, when APSCO was purchased by the Eagle Pencil (a division of Berol Corporation) Bob and Betty moved to Danbury, Connecticut, where Bob became General Manager. After three years in Connecticut, Bob returned to Freeport and Micro Switch in 1976. In 1980, in anticipation of retirement, Bob transferred to the Micro Switch facility in Mars Hill, North Carolina, to become the Location Manager. Bob retired in 1992 after a 34-year career with Micro Switch. Bob and Betty have lived in the Asheville area since 1980.

Bob was a loving and caring husband, father, grandfather and friend. A man of many talents, Bob played varsity baseball all four years of high school and was a prominent softball pitcher for Micro Switch in the Freeport city league, in addition to being an accomplished wood worker, golfer and bowler. His children fondly remember Sunday afternoons and after family meals when Bob would sit down to the piano and play his favorite tunes, and his unique way of telling a story, whether funny or not. Bob gave generously of his time and was an active participant in organizations such as Freeport Little League (“best coach ever”), Indian Guides, the Masonic Temple in Freeport, Kiwanis Club, Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity, and served on the board of Mission Hospital in Asheville. He was a faithful and dedicated member of his church families at Embury United Methodist in Freeport, Illinois; Newton United Methodist in Newtown, Connecticut; and St. Paul’s United Methodist in Asheville; serving as choir member, in leadership roles on committees, and drove the bus at St. Paul’s to insure that transportation did not prevent anyone from attending church service.

Bob is survived by his wife of 66 years Betty of Black Mountain, North Carolina, sons, John, Lafayette, California; Mark (Michaela), Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin; and daughter Carole Fogal, Asheville, North Carolina; beloved grandchildren Dr. Chelsea Leigh-Anne Fogal (Adam Cotton), Kenosha, Wisconsin; Andrew Fogal, Asheville; Abigail Fogal, Asheville; Michael Holey, Sturgeon Bay; Oliver Holey, Sturgeon Bay; Alexandra Holey, Oakland, California; and Austin Holey (Kristina Feldman), Paris, France; and brother Richard Holey, Lambertville, Michigan. He is preceded in death by his parents and brother Ronald Holey.

A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held 11:00 AM, Saturday, April 5, 2014 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 223 Hillside Street, Asheville, North Carolina. A reception will immediately follow in the church fellowship

Hall.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, the family requests a donation in memory of Bob Holey to the Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity, 33 Meadow Rd, Asheville, NC 28803, (828) 251-5702, www.ashevillehabitat.org.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
Hillside Steet
Asheville, NC 28801

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Robert Emerson Holey*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Dear Betty, Mark, John and Carole - Deepest prayers of comfort as you continue to move through Bob's passing. Bob was one of several who were responsible to afford me a chance to start my career as an engineer in Mars Hill. So many years later, the folks that ran our operation remain respected by me as some of the best that really understood how a successful business should be managed. Beyond his professional skills, Bob's sense of caring and humor will remain with me. I count myself among the blessed who have a chance on this earth to cross paths with a gentleman like Bob. I will miss joining with you for the the celebration of Bob's life. Celebrate you should. It is well deserved. Peace be with you all. Mark Green and family.*

Mark Green - April 02, 2014 at 10:29 PM



“ *Betty, I am so sorry for the loss of your husband. You have an abundance of memories to cherish. May the God of all comfort be with you.*

Minnie - March 17, 2014 at 12:17 PM

MH

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Mark Holey - March 14, 2014 at 08:09 PM

FR

“ *I am truly sorry for your loss. My deepest sympathy to the family. ISAIAH41:10.*

Frances - March 13, 2014 at 07:12 PM

NW

“ *Dear Family: So very sorry to read of Bob's passing. I have wonderful memories of Bob and Betty as our neighbors on Lynn Avenue in Freeport, IL. They also showed us a great time on our vacation to N. Carolina years ago. Where did the time go???* Remember that Bob is asleep in death and soon Jehovah God will resurrect him to a fresh new world as described in the Bible at: John 5:28,29.
My love and prayers go out to the family at this time.
Love, Nancy West & family
1927 Comanche Ct.
Freeport, IL 61032

Nancy West - March 10, 2014 at 04:47 PM

DD

Dear Sister West: I am sure the family of Bob's family appreciated your loving reminders of Jehovah's love.

Dick Van Dyke - March 13, 2014 at 02:30 PM

AK

“ My family and I are truly sorry for your loss, and we are sending some words of comfort from God’s Word, the Bible. Isaiah 25:8 gives the assurance that, soon, Jehovah God “will swallow up death forever.” Yes, the day will soon come when “death will be no more.” (Revelation 21:4) May you find comfort in what God will accomplish in the near future. Until then, you will remain in our thoughts & prayers.

Alex K. - March 10, 2014 at 09:42 AM

DD

Brother Alex: We are all looking forward to Jehovah's day.

Dick Van Dyke - March 13, 2014 at 02:32 PM

DD

“ Dear Betty and family: I was extremely sorry to read this morning of Bob's passing! He was an amazing person and I have fond memories of singing in the Embury choir with him; of playing bridge on New Years Eve with both of you and just being friends with your family. You are all in my prayers. God Bless You, Donna Smith DeVoe

Donna DeVoe - March 08, 2014 at 08:26 AM

AW

My deepest sympathy for your loss Mrs. Holey, Its been a long time but I never forgot you, you were my favorite teacher. You helped me make my wedding dress. This is Alvina (Woolford) Wohlgamuth We have been married 62 years have 4 children, 8 grabs children and 8 Great. Would love to hear from you. My e-mail is Waugs@roadrunner.com Love to you and ur family soooo sorry !!!!

Alvina Wohlgamuth - March 16, 2014 at 12:18 PM