



Robert Earle Blades

January 14, 1933 - June 15, 2016

Robert Earle Blades passed away on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, at his home surrounded by his family. He was 83.

A Talbot County ninth generation, Bob was born in Queen Anne on January 14, 1933, the son of the late Everett Sheldon Blades, Sr., and Ida Harrison Blades. Bob attended public school graduating from Easton High School Class of 1951, the first Talbot class requiring twelve grades. As a young boy, Bob was a charter member of Easton's Troop 190 of the Boy Scouts of America, enjoying camping out at Easton's Fort Point.

During the Korean War, Bob served with the 101st Airborne Division of Sixth Army. Returning home, he was employed by ConAgra's Delmarva Division (formerly Bayshore Foods, Inc.) serving on their board of directors and as executive vice president. After serving there twenty six years, he resigned from ConAgra, accepting a position with Tri-Gas & Oil Co., Inc. as executive vice president also serving on their board for fourteen years. Bob often remarked that both employment opportunities afforded him the experience of being associated with talented business associates. He was appreciative of those who mentored him along the way, giving them credit for what he learned in the business world.

Bob felt very fortunate to have served and learned so much from civic leaders

as well. As past presidents of the Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. (DPI), The Private Industry Council of the Upper Eastern Shore, the Talbot Cancer Society, The Chesapeake Center, the Chesapeake College Foundation and the Talbot County Management Board, this leadership experience allowed him to be associated with talented community volunteers. He also served on the Board of Trustees of Chesapeake College, was a member of the Memorial Hospital Association and served on the board of For All Seasons, Inc. A charter member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church, he previously taught Sunday school, served on the administrative board as church treasurer and especially enjoyed chairing the St. Mark's Scholarship Committee. He had the great honor of serving twelve years on the Congressman Gilchrist's Military Service Academies Appointments Committee. He was awarded the University of Maryland Meritorious Award, the DPI Distinguished Citizen Award and Talbot County Senior Citizen Award.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife, Constance Kaufman Blades, (first meeting her at a dance at The Tidewater Inn) and marrying in 1959. Surviving also is his daughter, Amy Blades Steward; son-in-law, Eric L. Steward; and grandsons, Andrew and Conner Dorbin of Easton; his son, C. Craig Blades and his wife Candace; grandchildren, William and Caroline Blades of Richmond, VA; sister, Barbara Blades Dryden and her husband, Con Dryden of Salisbury, MD; sister-in-law, Shirley Reed Blades of Easton; and two special people in his life, sister-in-law, Patti K. Willis and husband Craig S. Willis of St. Michaels, MD; one nephew; and five nieces.

Bob was predeceased by a sister, Florence Blades Layton; and two brothers, E. Sheldon Blades, Jr. and F. Harrison Blades, both of whom died December 28, 1994. Bob was also one of the last survivors of forty two grandchildren of the late Levi Francis Harrison and May Elizabeth (nee Williams) of Bay Hundred.

Services will be held at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 100 Peachblossom St., Easton, on June 18, 2016 at 11 AM. Interment will be private at Oxford Cemetery.

If desirable, contributions may be made to the College Scholarship Fund of St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 100 Peachblossom Rd, Easton, MD 21601 or to Talbot Hospice, 586 Cynwood Drive, Easton, MD 21601.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Service

JUN 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
100 Peach Blossom Road
Easton, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Earle Blades*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Robert Earle Blades*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Robert Earle Blades*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Connie - and family members - a family out of town wedding kept us from attending Bob's service. We want you to know we are sending you our deepest sympathy and the warmest of fond memories of our long ago card playing and dinners. Please also know that we are sending you our energy and prayers in getting through the difficult days ahead.*

Chick and Sally Blizzard

Charles Sally Blizzard - June 23, 2016 at 08:25 AM



“ *Frank And Paige Walbert lit a candle in memory of Robert Earle Blades*



Frank and Paige Walbert - June 20, 2016 at 10:33 AM

DA

“ I had known of Bob as a pillar of St. Mark's Church every since I married Herby in 1962, but I didn't really know Bob until I began serving on the missions committee 12 plus years ago. There I learned of his ability to use the computer to keep in touch with our foreign mission projects and to keep the committee up-to-date on their work. For someone his (our) age he learned how to navigate computers with great skill and we certainly benefited from this skill. Also, if there was a potential new project that i wanted to know about, I would simply give the name to Bob and he would soon get back to me with more information.

It was also to Bob that we turned to each year to make the invitation cards, when we were planning the committee's annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon for the Thrift Shop Volunteers and church staff. I don't know how he came up with so many different styles, but each year brought a new, attractive and most appropriate set of card/s. He did this even after he was no longer a missions committee member.

A few years ago, when Bob felt he could no longer continue to serve on the missions committee, he didn't leave us 'high and dry'. He arranged for Eric to come on in his place, turning over his records to him; as well as notifying the foreign mission projects' contact people of the change. He had a great sense of responsibility to see that the committee could continue to serve our foreign mission partners well. It has truly been a blessing to know Bob and to know of & be inspired by his service to our church and our community.

Blessings & peace to his family,
Della Andrew

Della Andrew - June 19, 2016 at 01:51 PM

SB

“ I was so impressed by Bob's obituary notice. The list of his accomplishments described so precisely his many unique abilities and interests. One gets a clear picture of Bob's many contributions to our community with his unfailing desire to serve. On a personal note, when I think of Bob, I remember the warmth of his smile and voice, the twinkle in his eye, his kindness, the unique handmade cards which arrived at our home on many occasions, wonderful times with Connie and Bob, who were such gracious host and hostess--to sum it all up, Bob was a true gentleman. And to you, Bob, we will always miss having you in our lives.
With our love,
Sally and Dave

Sally and Dave Bent - June 19, 2016 at 09:56 AM

DC

“ David & June Clark lit a candle in memory of
Robert Earle Blades



David & June Clark - June 18, 2016 at 06:17 PM

DA

Dear Connie and family , sorry for your loss, thoughts and prayers are with each one of you

DAVID AND JUNE

David - June 18, 2016 at 06:19 PM

LE

“ Sadly, cannot be with you today to honor Mr. Bob. Am there in spirit though. Wrapping you in love, peace, & comfort.

Linda Swann Elben-Adams - June 18, 2016 at 09:10 AM

TH

“ Dear Connie and Family,

Sally joins me to send our deepest condolences for your loss. Thanks go to Bob for his untiring (and hugely successful) efforts of behalf of the Class of 1951 at Easton High School and for the number of great class reunions that came about as a result of his leadership and effort. His classmates are forever in his debt for all he did to keep our class connected. We will miss him as a classmate and as a leader greatly.



Tom Hopkins

Tom Hopkins - June 17, 2016 at 07:13 PM

MR

“ *Mr. Blades was a wonderful person so kind and sweet he was always one you could look up to and he made you feel so good about yourself. I had the pleasure of working with him at Tri-Gas & Oil when he was here . He inspired me to do things I would not have tried. he will be missed very much . He was liked so much when he left we were sad to see him go . but we always got to see him when came in Easton ,either running or a walk .Our thoughts and prayers go to the family he was special person .*
Debbie & Mike Ruf

Mike & Debbie Ruf - June 17, 2016 at 10:43 AM

GP

“ *Gene & Lynda Palmatary sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert Earle Blades*



Gene & Lynda Palmatary - June 17, 2016 at 07:54 AM

GP

Connie and family: What a wonderful man that has left his community. Bob was a great person and loved so many people. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Sorry we cannot make the service, but will be thinking of you. God will be with you through every step and wishing you and your family strength and peace. Blessings and God Bless, Lynda and Gene

Gene Palmatary - June 17, 2016 at 07:57 AM

MK

“ WILL MISS YOUR EMAILS BOB, REST IN PEACH - MERT

MARION KAUFMAN - June 16, 2016 at 08:05 PM

LE

“ *Many memories made with this TALL, handsome man & his family throughout the years. Welcomed into their home as if I was a family member. Can hear his laugh as Amy & I played & sang "Bill Gogan's Goat." I thought their house was a palace as a child. As an adult, I realize it was the warmth & love there I remember the most. Many blessings as your family walks the path of grief. YOUR memories will bring your sweet peace.*

Linda Swann Elben-Adams - June 16, 2016 at 05:49 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Earle Blades.*



June 16, 2016 at 04:20 PM

DR

“ *Denny Russell lit a candle in memory of Robert Earle Blades*



Denny Russell - June 16, 2016 at 01:02 PM

CH

“ *Cecilia Hoevenaars lit a candle in memory of Robert Earle Blades*



Cecilia Hoevenaars - June 16, 2016 at 12:20 PM

CH

My thoughts and prayers to the family. May your memories help you during this difficult time.

Cecilia Hoevenaars - June 16, 2016 at 12:21 PM

SM

“ *Steven Mccarty lit a candle in memory of Robert Earle Blades*



steven mccarty - June 16, 2016 at 11:48 AM

AR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ann Rubino - June 16, 2016 at 07:54 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of *Robert Earle Blades*.



June 15, 2016 at 05:47 PM