

ROBERT JOHN CRUM

1924 - 2017



Robert (Bob) was born on October 21, 1924 in Pana, IL to Ernest and Leah Crum. He grew up in Nampa, where he completed high school and worked for Western Union delivering messages by bicycle to Nampa residents. Drafted into the Navy, he served 2 years during WWII as a Medical Corpsman. After the war, he earned his dental degree from Northwestern University where he met his wife, Betty, whom he married in 1949. After their wedding, he was called up as an Army Reserve Officer and served in the Korean War as a dentist with MASH company. He was discharged in 1952 with the rank of Captain.

He spent most of his career as a dentist with the Veterans Administration, along with teaching at Loyola University and University of Illinois dental schools. Though he and Betty and their 3 children relocated numerous times, they considered Chicago their home. When he retired, they first moved to Florida and then to the Boise area.

A man of wide interests, hobbies and passions (hiking, birding, stained glass, photography, home renovation, genealogy, travel), Bob was also a Master Gardener, a member of Boise's Golden Eagle Audubon Society, and an avid participant of Road Scholar courses. In his seventies, he walked across England with his son, and in his late eighties could often be seen on skis at the Bogus Basin Nordic Ski Area.

Coming of age in the teeth of the Great Depression, he knew privation and insecurity in his early years. But against those odds, he built a life that was professionally successful, rich with family and friends, sustained by optimism and curiosity, and fulfilled in love and generosity.

He is preceded in death by Betty, who died in Boise in 2008. He is survived by his children Robert, Jr., of Portland, OR; Julie Kytan of Atlanta, GA (husband, Ralph); and Barbara Kerr of Boise, ID (husband, Steve), and four grandchildren - Rob Kytan of Atlanta, GA; Evie Kytan of Spartanburg, SC; Hannah Crum of Portland, OR; and Emma Kerr of Boise, ID.