

Robert G. Blake
"Bob"



"You are a testament to what is great about the Greatest Generation"

Robert G. Blake died on August 23, 2011 in the company of his loving wife and adoring family after a gallant fight against Alzheimer's disease.

He was born to Alice Atkins and George V. Blake in Bingham Canyon on August 18, 1926 and always spoke fondly of growing up in Copperton. His life was always grounded in the area and he retired from Kennecott Copper as an electrician after 43 years.

Bob's amazing life is imprinted everywhere. It is remembered by the many little league baseball players who learned solid athletic skills and life skills from him during the 15 years that he coached the Midvale Red Sox. It is carried in the sound of a grandfather clock announcing the hour from one of several he made by hand and gave to his children that will become heirlooms for many future generations. His legacy is seen in the beautiful gardens of his children after learning the basics from him in the greenhouse where he raised orchids. He influenced three generations of family who now enjoy coin collecting after he shared his interest in coins with them through years of giving them on birthdays, Christmas and special occasions. He taught us all to fish and we can all share a funny story or two about his fishing trips to Current Creek or the Strawberry Reservoir. We have wonderful memories of logging thousands of miles crossing the country in a small camper on a schedule and route he had spent months preparing that culminated in breathtaking outdoor experiences. He taught us to water ski and how to drive a boat. He is remembered for the way he packed fresh onions into hamburger and then grilled it just the way he liked it, which was taking it them to the brink of starting on fire and burning (a

skill set none of us have chosen use). His cardinal rule was well known in every eating establishment statewide: "You never let cheese near anything he eats".

He married Velma Lyman just three days after she graduated from high school and it was a strong loving bond that lasted the rest of his life. Together they raised four children, 16 grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren and provided the type of solid family compass that everyone should have. They have also enjoyed a rich array of friends and have a way of attracting the most wonderful people to them. The lines were always blurry on who were friends and were family, but it did not matter because it all contributed to very happy times.

He is remembered for his military service when he joined the Navy at age 17 during WWII as a helmsman where he witnessed the flag being raised at Iwo Jima. He was the youngest serviceman on the ship, probably due to the fact he lied about his young age in an effort to be accepted to serve.

He is survived by his loving wife, Velma; and their four children, Deborah (Thomas) Sharp, Sandra Blake, Edward (Linda) Blake, Gordon (Bonnie) Blake; his sister, Peggy (Alan) Hansen; sixteen grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren (soon to be 31).

The viewing will be held on Thursday, August 25th, from 6-8 pm at the Goff Mortuary, 8090 S State and from 9:45-10:45 am prior to the funeral service which will be held Friday August 26th , at 11:00 a.m. am. Interment will be at Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 East 10600 South, Sandy, UT.

You are the "helmsman" of our family who built a wonderful legacy that will endure far beyond your years. You are loved by many and will be missed by all.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Salt Lake Valley Habitat for Humanity, 1276 South 500 West, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101.