

# Robert James (Bob) Brown



Bob's journey with Parkinson's and dementia ended in much the same way that he lived, with silent strength and his loved ones by his side. Adopted by his loving parents Boyd and Ida Brown in 1939 in Vancouver, BC., his first schooling was in a one room schoolhouse in Essondale where his father worked with Health & Welfare. After the family moved to Victoria, Bob attended George Jay Elementary, Central Jr. High, and Vic High, where he met his soulmate, Betty (nee Williamson). The basketball player and the cheerleader were married soon after.

Family was the cornerstone of Bob's life. Together with Betty, he built a tight-knit family with daughter Debbie (Roger) Pires, and sons Bob (Christine) and Rick (Rhonda) Brown. A beloved 'Papa,' Bob remains a hero to his grandchildren Michael (Jessica), Alysa (Adam), Adam, Alana (Dan), and Emma (Peter). In 2021, Bob was promoted to "Great Papa" with the birth of his two great granddaughters, Sawyer and Lucy.

Bob and Betty were married in 1959. Bob's work as a draftsman for California Standard Oil brought the young couple to Calgary where they soon welcomed their first child, Debbie. Returning to Victoria to raise their family, Bob and Rick were born shortly after. Bob joined the Victoria Fire Department where he proudly served 32 years before retiring as Assistant Chief in 1993.

Bob's life was spent in service to his community, acting as President of the VFD's Benevolent Society, and as a dedicated soccer, Little League, and lacrosse coach. Bob was a kind man and a good friend to all. He enjoyed the company of many friends, neighbours, and his brothers at the Fire Hall. He was the President and Co-Founder of the "Charcoal Gang," providing a place for retired firefighters to stay connected.

Bob and Betty loved to travel, taking many trips with friends and family. Bob especially adored any place where he could swim in the ocean. Whether on one of their many trips to Maui, cruising to Alaska, Panama, and Florida, or driving their motor home to California and across the Island, Bob and Betty shared a sense of adventure and a deep appreciation of nature's beauty.

A lifelong athlete, Bob passed on his love of sport to his children and grandchildren. He enjoyed swimming, cycling, running, tennis, basketball, and softball, but his truest passion was cheering on his grandchildren. Rain or shine, he never missed a game (or a dance recital). He was a mainstay in the crowd at the Victoria Shamrocks' games where he could often be found pacing above the seats.

Bob loved holidays and all family gatherings. From annual readings of "The Night Before Christmas" to hiding under the "troll bridge" at Rathtrevor Campground, Papa created magic for his grandchildren through countless traditions and meaningful memories.

Bob is predeceased by his parents, and his sister-in-law Louise McCulloch. He will be greatly missed by his sister Linda (Ken) Armstrong, his nieces and nephews, and his dear friend John Devlin, who was a constant with his caring visits through the end of Bob's life.

Our deepest thanks to the staff at Saanich Peninsula Hospital, Extended Care Unit 1 for their incredible care and support, not just of Bob but our whole family. Though it is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Bob/Dad/Papa, we are able to move forward with strength and care for each other because he showed us how.

*"True love is a many splendored thing"*

No service by request, but donations to SPH Foundation (Long Term Care) are greatly appreciated.

<https://sphf.ca/support-the-saanich-peninsula-hospital/>

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall Gardens

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