

In Memoriam

Robert E. Dear, Ph.D.

(1927-2014)

Father, Husband, Friend, Servicemen, Student, Educator

Dr. Robert Dear was a respected and very well liked psychology professor at CSUN. He served twice as the Chair of the Department of Psychology, retiring at the end of his second term. He spent twenty-five years teaching at the university from 1966 – 1991.

Bob was born in March 1927, the youngest of two sons, to Alice and George R. Dear of Appleton, Wisconsin. Bob enlisted in the army of the United States. He went into Berlin just after it fell and was honorably discharged in November of 1946. He received the Victory Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

Bob was a life-long learner and educator. He entered the University of Wisconsin when he returned home from the war. Working as an orderly in a psychiatrist hospital as part of his psychology major he met Grace, an RN at the hospital who he married.

Bob received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1950. He received his Master's from the University of Oregon in 1953 and his Ph.D. from the University of Washington in 1957.

Bob was eternally grateful to Grace for moving with him around the country, working while he finished school.

In 1961, Bob and Grace moved into their forever home in Granada Hills, CA to start a family. In 1966 Bob obtained a teaching position at a new college in Northridge, CA called San Fernando Valley State College. In 1971 that College would be renamed California State University, Northridge (CSUN).

Bob had a busy family life. He really enjoyed soccer and he had all of the kids in AYSO. He was a coach, a referee, and played in a men's league well into his 50s. He organized family trips to Mammoth, Carpinteria beach, and Seattle. He had an incredible work-ethic making sure the family had what was needed and more.

He was sensitive and understanding with a good sense of humor that he passed on to his kids; often watching Benny Hill and Monty Python's Flying Circus on public television with them. Sadly, Grace was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2001 and passed in 2009.

Bob and Grace were devoted in love, mutual respect and marriage for 60 years. Bob was relatively healthy for a few years after Grace passed but then struggled with advanced Parkinson. He passed of natural causes at 87 years of age on June 25, 2014 with his children at his side.