



Robbins Fischer

March 31, 1919 - September 9, 2010

ROBBINS W. FISCHER (1919 - 2010)

WATERLOO, IA - Robbins (Bob) Fischer, 91 of Cedar Falls died Thursday, September 9, at Allen Hospital from complications of pneumonia.

He was born March 31, 1919 in Turin, IA, son of Lewis Warren and Edith Robbins Fischer. He married J. Noreen Greenawalt on April 10, 1943 in Boulder, CO.

Mr. Fischer graduated from Onawa High School in 1936 and the University of Colorado in 1942, plus additional studies in law (C.U.) and business (Rutgers U.).

As President of the Monona-Harrison Flood Control Association in the mid-50s, he led the effort to solve the frequent flooding of the Little Sioux River, which has never flooded since 1956 when the project was completed. He played a key role as Chairman of the Iowa Republican Farm Council in drafting what was passed by Congress as PL480 (including the Food For Peace Program). This plan to sell surplus US grain to foreign countries for local currency changed the food distribution pattern of the world and saved millions of lives. In 1987 he was a nominee for the very first World Food Prize for these efforts.

He was active in international trade doing business in over 61 countries, establishing Soypro International in 1963 (consultants in soybean processing

technology) and International Business Associates (export management) in 1965. He was the first Western contractor into Yugoslavia, building a soy flour plant that dramatically increased the protein value of bread for school children. He designed and built the soybean processing plant at Manning, IA. His study of India in the mid-60s reversed both US and Indian agricultural policy. He was appointed to Task Force study groups for four different US Presidents (Kennedy, Nixon, Ford, Reagan). The section he wrote for President Reagan's Task Force on International Private Enterprise permanently changed the primary focus of the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) from funding foreign governments to supporting small businesses. In the 1990s he made the technology breakthrough that eliminated the beany flavor from soy milk. His process is still used in the most popular brand of soy milk on the market. He was a founding member of the Iowa District Export Council, serving for 34 years; a member of the Bretton-Woods Committee for 26 years; and was a 50-year Rotarian. He was a board member of Pro-Farmer, Self-Help Foundation, Cedar Falls Chamber of Commerce; and active in Republican politics and his church.

Survived by: wife, Noreen of Cedar Falls; two daughters: Barbara (Dale) Hatinger of Cedar Falls and Dorothy Fischer of Dallas, TX.

Proceeded in death by: daughter, Martha Denton; sister, Mary Lou Huggenberger

Services: 11 a. m. Saturday, October 9, First Congregational Church, Waterloo with inurnment at Greenwood Cemetery. Visitation Friday, Oct. 8, 5-7 pm, First Congregational Church.

Memorials: may be directed to the family, church or Rotary International.

Tribute Wall



“ Dear Fischer family, I wish I could have been there yesterday. Please know that you're all in my thoughts and prayers. Bob is a man who had a huge impact on many people all over the world and I am honored to have known such a great man. He will be remembered by me an many others and his legacy will endure.

I'm truly sorry for your loss and will continue to pray for your family.

Darin

October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Fischer family,
I so wish I could be in town tomorrow to share in his memorial service. I will be there in thoughts and prayers! It was a lovely article in the Courier; Mr. Fischer was an amazing man and his accomplishments will live on in the Cedar Valley, our country and in the world. How many of us can leave such a legacy?

October 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Noreen, I am sorry for your loss of Bob. I have thought of you and Bob many times, over the pass twenty some years since I worked with you and Bob. I have also missed the discussions we would have during lunch. They were quite enjoyable. Rand

October 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Noreen, Barbara and Family-*
I am so sorry for the loss of Robbins, he truly was an amazing man. In the last 9 months I had the opportunity to laugh, joke, encourage, comfort, listen to and even disagree and debate with him. He worked very hard everytime I worked with him in Occupational Therapy; and I shared in his sense of accomplishment when he made it to his room in AL.
Although I only knew him for a short time he has made an impression on me. Thank you for all your support of the therapy team at the CFLH. We enjoyed all his stories and admired his spirit!
Jill Theobald

October 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Noreen & Barbara & Family,*

I am so sorry for your loss of Bob. I want you to know my thoughts are with you and your family.

Barbara

September 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM