



Rev. Robert Ansley Roof

September 24, 1925 - January 24, 2021

Robert A (Bob) Roof, returned to the Lord on Sunday, January 24th after a short illness. He was 95. He was preceded in death by the love of his life and wife of 67 years, Shirley, in 2015, and their firstborn infant daughter Barbara Ann, as well as his parents and three siblings.

He is survived by his four sons, Bob (Kay) of Manchester, John (Beth) of Cedar Rapids, Pete (Chris) of Duncan, Arizona, and Tom (Tina) of Cedar Falls, as well as his younger sister, Nancy Pax of New York. He and Shirley were also blessed with ten grandchildren and multiple great grandchildren.

Bob was born and raised in Buffalo, New York. He joined the Navy during WWII as a signalman on a Landing Craft, and returned to Buffalo where he and Shirley reunited and were married. He worked in electronics repair temporarily, but subsequently felt that he was called to the ministry. He attended college at Westminster College in New Castle, PA, and then Seminary at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The family moved to Des Moines in 1957 where he was an associate pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church. In 1963, the family again moved, this time to Cedar Falls. He became pastor of Cedar Heights Presbyterian Church and was there for many years until retirement. During his tenure at Cedar Heights, he attended UNI and got his master's in counseling and used that in his ministry. He and Shirley were a steady positive force in the community throughout their

lives in Cedar Falls. They were heavily invested in service with the American Cancer Society for years, and developed many friendships and were joyful with their experiences related to that. Bob also enjoyed golf and was a voracious reader. Most of all, he was a family man who led by his quiet example: Proverbs 3 seemed to be a favorite scripture. The Roof household was always open for friends, family, food, and a good cup of coffee: He touched so many in his life and will be greatly missed.

A Celebration of Robert's Life will be 1:00 p.m. Saturday, August 28, 2021 at the Cedar Heights Community Presbyterian Church, with private inurnment of both Robert and Shirley in the Fairview Cemetery, both in Cedar Falls. The service will be livestreamed from the church's Facebook page. Memorials can be directed to Cedar Heights Presbyterian Church, or the American Cancer Society.

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

12th and Division Streets
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 273-8628

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 28. 1:00 PM (CT)

Cedar Heights Community Presbyterian Church
2015 Rainbow Drive
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 268-0153
<http://cedarheightspres.org>

Tribute Wall

NC

“ Reverend Roof married my husband and I in 1959 in west Des Moines. He was a wonderful caring man. I'll always remember how kind he was to us both. We recently celebrated our 57th anniversary!

Nancy J Cosby - February 07, 2024 at 01:14 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Robert Ansley Roof.



August 27, 2021 at 04:20 PM

KC

“ Rev. Roof was my pastor at Cedar Heights Presbyterian Church for years. He was so kind and nice. I went to him with teenage problems more than once. We'd go sit in the office at the top of the stairs and he'd just let me talk, get it off my chest. His sermons always had a lesson in them. Our youth groups would put on productions, music would be played by a church band, usually his son John on drums, Brad Bingham and Doug Chandler on guitar, church was always fun. Rev. Roof, you were awesome, I've never found another like you. May you rest in peace now and always. May your family know that I send my prayers to them all. Kim (Kates) Croushore

Kim Croushore - February 19, 2021 at 10:33 PM

ST

“ Bob was a dear person to me. As my pastor during my teenage years, his homilies were thought-provoking and inspiring. I can remember walking home from church with a good feeling and a deep thought. His connections to a young pastor and wife in Hazard, Kentucky led to a "mission" trip of about a dozen of us high-schoolers (including son, John) to Appalachia in an RV - on the road to sing songs and help where we could.

Bob was there for the family when we lost my brother, John, to a drug overdose at 18 years old; I still have a copy of his comforting words from that day - 45 years ago.

In 1983, when I planned a simple wedding at the family cabin outside of Ely, MN, Bob and Shirley needed to be there and they were. It took place on the deck and Bob provided a little magic and a lot of fun.

There were Christmas cards and the occasional visit when I was back in town but we never got Bob and Shirley back up to the lake (or at least to Minneapolis for a round of golf) and I'm sorry for that.

Life gets busy with kids and work and then the chance is gone.

My sympathy to the Roof family. I think you all know what a real gem you had in Bob. Love, Sara Adams Turnbull (Minneapolis)

Sara Turnbull - February 17, 2021 at 11:40 PM

KC

I'm the one that fell on the railroad tracks the first trip to Hazard, KY and John had to help me because he was the doctor in the bunch! I remember that trip in the Winnebago all too well!

Kim Croushore - February 19, 2021 at 10:34 PM

RK

“ Shirley and I would like to offer our deepest condolences to the family of Bob Roof in the passing of an extremely close and trusted friend.

Shirley and I got to know Bob and Shirley Roof and family nearly 60 years ago when we were on the staff of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines. We had maintained close ties with them through out a wonderful lifetime of visits, lunches and associated activities, garnering a wealth of memories of shared joy, laughter and exchanges of news of family developments.

With deepest love, Shirley and I would like to direct a blessing to you from Jude 2, “May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.”

Affectionately,

Dick and Shirley Kiefer

Richard Kiefer - February 03, 2021 at 02:30 PM

RF

“ Bob was a wonderful person and will be missed.

The Bob Hansen Family - Bob and Mike

Roxanne Fuller - February 01, 2021 at 08:14 PM

JS

“ Lovely man that I met at church camps in the 1950's. He was always encouraging and a very fun person to be around.

John T Stewart - February 01, 2021 at 03:34 PM

JF

“ I was saddened to hear that Bob had passed. He was a wonderful man. He and Shirley were supportive parents at Cedar Heights School when I was principal there. I got to know Bob and Shirley during that time. I found Bob to be a very kind and caring man and I know that his parishioners appreciated his loving service. I was moved to wish to present him with a novelty table that I had painted. I remember vividly taking the table to their home. I saw Bob once out here at the Western homes. I lament the fact that I did not follow up with more visits. Deepest sympathy to all of the Roof Family. John (Judy) Focht

John & Judy Focht - January 31, 2021 at 09:34 PM

BB

“ Warm thoughts and condolences go out to the Roof family. Bob was a great friend and role model. Many thanks for the opportunity to know him.

Brad Bingham - January 31, 2021 at 07:16 PM

KE

“ Bob and Shirley were very active in RFL for the American Cancer Society. Their enthusiasm prompted so many others to support and give to this needy program. Their love for life was contagious as both Bob and Shirley shared their love with me. What a marvelous testimony to life. Thank you Pastor Bob.



Ken Earnest - January 31, 2021 at 04:36 PM

AA

“ Bob Roof was just the type of individual you would want as your minister. He was kind, caring, patient, had a great sense of humor, a twinkle in his eye, and was a great friend to the Fred Adams family for many years. I am so happy that my mother, Jeanne, my sister, Sara, and I could have a wonderful visit with Bob a few years back at his place at the Western Home. Many memories were shared, family times were remembered, and laughter abounded! I sincerely hope that several family members and I can attend the Celebration of Life for this remarkable person when it is held in the future.

AUDREY ADAMS-SORGE
Waterloo, IA

Audrey Adams-Sorge - January 31, 2021 at 03:42 PM

RS

“ We didn't know Robert, but his son Dr. John Roof was our wonderful, caring family doctor for almost 30 years. Robert's story is inspiring, and we can see his kind and servant nature in Dr. Roof. Our sincere sympathy to all of his family. Roger & Cathy Soukup

Roger W Soukup - January 31, 2021 at 03:02 PM

KC

Rev. Roof's son John was also an ER doctor that took care of my grandson Devon Shearon many times. John took after Rev. Roof, kind, compassionate, caring, and comforting to be around.

Kim Croushore - February 19, 2021 at 10:37 PM

VD

“ To the family of Robert Roof - Your dad helped our family through very difficult time during the illness and death of our mother Ramona Gilkey. He then participated in a more joyous occasion when my husband and I were married. It was a memorable occasion when lightening struck a tree outside the sanctuary. We remember Rev Roof fondly - he set a Christian example to all!
Virginia and Wayne Dowling
Ames, Iowa


Virginia and Wayne Dowling - January 31, 2021 at 12:59 PM

JH

“ We played often at his house with his children when they lived in Cedar Falls. He was very kind. I'm so sorry for your loss.
JodyTinkey/Helmrichs

Joel Ann Helmrichs - January 31, 2021 at 09:35 AM

SF

“ I love when Bob and Shirley came into the American Cancer Society office to say hi. They were such a lovely, kind and sweet couple. They came with smiles and chocolate chip cookies. I 

Sarah Foster - January 30, 2021 at 08:42 PM

CK

“ Bob was my next door neighbor, at Windgrace. He was such a kind, gentle soul. Please know that he has been missed by all here.

Cindy Klodt - January 27, 2021 at 06:31 PM