



## Robert Runkle

October 14, 1927 - September 5, 2010

Robert L. "Bob" Runkle, 82, died at home Sunday, September 5, at Windcove of Western Home Communities, following a three-year journey with cancer.

He was born October 14, 1927, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the son of R. Lester and Helene Black Runkle. He married Susan Mack on August 22, 1953, at First Congregational Church in Columbus, Ohio.

He graduated from St. Louis Park High School, Minnesota, in 1945. He received a bachelor's degree in 1950 from the University of Minnesota and a master's degree in social work from (Case) Western Reserve University of Cleveland, Ohio, in 1954.

He served in the U.S. Navy 1945-46. In 1948-49, he served with the American Friends Service Committee in Europe. He cleared rubble in Wurzburg, Germany, helped convert the German High Command barracks in Berlin into a home and school for war orphans, and helped clear forests in northern Finland for homesteading refugees displaced by the war with the USSR. He also worked with the Germantown Schools Council in Philadelphia through the AFSC. He served with the Friends as a counselor in their first integrated summer workcamp in Pine Mountain, KY, in 1951. In 1952, he was a counselor for U.S. high school students working in France with high school students from Germany and France building a sewer line for a new school in

Le Chambon.

He was employed by Goodrich Settlement House and Cleveland State Psychiatric Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio from 1954-1959. He returned to Iowa in 1959 to be a social worker for the Black Hawk County Mental Health Center, now Black Hawk Grundy Mental Health Center. His major professional interests were in mental-health group therapy, community-based services, patient confidentiality, and licensing of social workers. He became the executive director of the Mental Health Center from 1976 to his retirement in 1992. After retirement, he worked part-time for the Oelwein Mental Health Center for four years. He volunteered with the Cedar Valley Hospice from 2004-2010.

A lifelong photographer, he was also a longtime member of the National Association of Social Workers, and past board member of the Iowa chapter. He was a longtime member of the American Civil Liberties Union, and a member for over 50 years of First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Falls, where he was a deacon and elder. He was on the boards of the Friends of KHKE/KUNI, and STAGE, Inc. He chose to donate his body to the University of Iowa Department of Anatomy.

Survived by: his wife, Susan Mack Runkle, their three children and six grandchildren, David (Patricia) Runkle, children Anne and Sarah Runkle; Laura Runkle (Mike Miller), children Sam and Libby Miller; and Paul Runkle, children Sydney and Kevin Runkle. He is also survived by his sister Dottie (Bob) Newick, of San Jose, California.

Memorial Services: 10 a.m. Saturday, First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Falls.  
Visitation from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, at First Presbyterian Church.

Memorials: To UNI Foundation for the Robert Runkle Scholarship in Social

Work.

Condolences may be left [www.richardsonfuneralservice.com](http://www.richardsonfuneralservice.com).

He wanted to be remembered as believing in trusting God.

# Tribute Wall



“ Dear Susan and family(Dave especially). My folks sent me a link to Bob's obituary. How quickly life moves on. I remember the many days we had a childhood chums, and the many hours I spent at your house. I remember Bob's smile as it is pictured. I hope you are able to come to peace with your loss and I pray that God will share his peace and grace to you all. With Love/John Roof

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September 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Susan and family, We have enjoyed visiting with you and Bob at KSG reunions. We loved how he could set up the picture and jump in it at the last second. Our prayers are with you. Love, Jerry, Nancy and Jan Jacobs

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September 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Susan...I want to express my condolences to you and your family on the loss of your husband Bob. It sounds as if his was a life well lived. I hope you have many happy memories to carry you through the days ahead.  
From: Ellen Vanderloo, Prime Time Volunteer Coordinator  
RSVP/Waterloo Schools.

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September 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Susan and Family.....It has truly been a great pleasure knowing Bob over the years. His energy and friendly personality were always welcomed to all he encountered. His support of our Friends of the Black Hawk Grundy Mental Health Center and us as board members and friends was never failing. He was an inspiration to everyone he met. His legacy will live on as a friend to all. My thoughts are with you.

*Barbara Brown*

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September 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



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September 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM