
Herbert L. Rees



Rees, Herbert L.

Rochester: It is with great sadness that the family of Herbert L. Rees announces his passing on Feb. 10, 2011. While visiting his daughter in California, Herb suffered a hip fracture and subsequent stroke. Herb was born March 18, 1923 and was raised on a farm in Murtaugh, Idaho. The first in his family to go to college, he attended the University of Idaho, where he obtained his Masters in Science in Organic Chemistry and met his wife, Helen Terhaar. After a year teaching at the Montana School of Mines, Herb and Helen moved to Rochester, NY, where Herb began his long career at Eastman Kodak, starting out as a research chemist working on Kodacolor film. Herb and Helen raised their three children in Webster, NY, where Herb spent 20 active years as a Boy Scout leader, seeing several of his scouts achieve Eagle status.

As Herb's career at Kodak steadily progressed to the executive office, he and Helen enjoyed his business trips to Europe, entertaining and gardening at their home in Irondequoit. After the death of Helen, Herb married his second wife, Kay Blake in 1985 and retired from his position of Vice President, Corporate Staff, after 40 years at Kodak. Herb launched himself into retirement, enjoying his leisure time hiking the Adirondack trail and climbing the peaks, skiing, playing tennis, cycling and learning to wind surf. He and Kay spent much of their time rehabbing their lovely old Canandaigua Lake farm house, traveling and entertaining. Herb was an active board member for many Rochester non-profits including Geva Theater, the RPO and St. Bernards, which all benefitted greatly from his "can do" management skills.

Herb was predeceased by his parents Henry and Ethel Rees, his brother Elmer and sisters Irene Rees, Rosemary Funk and Betty Harney. Herb is survived by his two sons, Michael and Peter Rees, and his daughter Patricia Rees; his sister Norma Wolfstein; step-sons John and Richard Harper, and step-daughter Mary Kay Harper Ireland; their spouses; and, from his and Kay's combined families, many grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Herb was a dynamic, kind and thoughtful man throughout his life. He remained independent to the end, grateful for the assistance of his family, especially that of his two sons, their spouses and the staff at Companion Care.

Friends are welcome to call Friday, February 25th, 2-4, 6-8 PM at the funeral chapel (2305 Monroe Ave.) A Funeral Mass will be said Saturday, February 26th, 10 AM at Blessed Sacrament Church, 534 Oxford St. There will be a reception at the Genesee Valley Club, 421 East Ave. immediately following the service. Burial will take place at a later date in Twin Falls, Idaho. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra or the Rochester General Hospital Foundation.



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