



Robert L. Behrends (Family Camper 60's, 80's)

Dr. Robert L. Behrends passed away peacefully in his home on Sunday, August 3, 2014. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Anna Louise (Simpson) Behrends. Father of Susan J. Kinney (Michael), Therese A. Bugaj and Dr. Robert Lee Behrends (Catherine). He is preceded in death by his son William S. Behrends and grandson Ryan C. Behrends. Robert was Grandfather of 10 and Great-grandfather of 5. Son of the late George and Therese Behrends, born in Casselton, North Dakota on May 6, 1922.

Robert attended grad school in Clifton, IL where he was awarded the Illinois Boy's State Medal. Robert graduated from Kankakee High School in 1940. Attended Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, IL for undergraduate studies and graduated in 1947 from the Illinois College of Podiatric Medicine. Robert received the Ralph W. Dye award in orthopedics. Robert served in the United State Army Medical Corps during World War II, captured at the Battle of the bulge, forced onto the Seven Day Death March and remained a POW until the end of the war. Robert was the recipient of five medals including the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. Dr. Behrends practiced Podiatric Medicine for 57 years and was the first Podiatrist on Evanston Hospital's Orthopedic Staff. He provided medical care for the Evanston Hospital's Free Clinic for 50 years, and then retired to the Emeritus Staff. Robert was an active member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church since 1945, active in the Bishop's Pence Program, participated in the merit badge program of the Boy Scouts of America. He was a Life Member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and Life Member of the American Podiatric Medical Association, on the founding board of the Illinois Podiatric Education Group and an avid golfer and world traveler. Memorial Service were held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Evanston. In lieu of flowers and in celebrations of Robert's life memorials may be sent to St. Mark's Episcopal Church and the Wounded Warrior Project.

Jim (Jamey) Coffman, (Camper 70's Staff 80's) wrote in response to our work weekend invitation: Some day I will make it to work weekends again but this year during the weekend in question I again have a conflict with the soccer team I will be coaching (the one featuring my youngest, Jenna, who is now 9 and heading into fourth grade. my son Noah is now 15 and will be a sophomore baseball player at Payton (I'm also assistant coaching his fall ball team and that team also has a game on the weekend in question) and daughter Alana is 13 and in eighth grade. her best sport is soccer).

I would even consider skipping the soccer game but again this year the AYSO in all its wisdom has scheduled a different game on a major Jewish holiday and therefore I will already be missing that one and one game missed per these short seasons is definitely enough.

So in lieu of my attendance I just wanted to drop you guys a quick note to re-iterate how happy I am to know so much Camp Echo stuff is in your hands. For probably at least a few more years the main way I'll be a tiny part of things as with contributions. Katie, please continue to be in touch with me on the very last days of fundraising years so that my procrastinating self can continue to chip in at the last possible moments. And Brian, please let me know if there are special projects I can contribute to.

Keep up the great work you two!

Jim (Jamey)



Sarah Geline (Camper 80's Staff 90's) and her husband Adam Welz welcomed triplet daughters, Pia, Alexa & Charlie (Charlotte). Born July 1, 2014. The Geline Welz family lives in Brooklyn, NY.



James Hoel (Staff in the 30's, Family Camper in the 60's) James Richard "Jim" 92, a lifelong Evanston resident, passed away at 6:00 p.m. on July 20, 2014, at the Presbyterian Home in Evanston. Jim was born on September 2, 1921 in Canby, Minnesota and lived on Grey Street in Evanston throughout his school years. Jim was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Jean Carver Hoel, who passed away on November 24, 2013 at the age of 91; and by his parents, Omer and Olive; and his brother, David. Jim is survived by three children, Rick and his wife

Pam of Bluffton, South Carolina, Gil and his wife Julie of Ontario, Wisconsin and Kim (Creadick) and her husband Chris of Littleton, Colorado; six grandchildren, Jenifer Shaw, Jillian Winters, Timothy Hoel, Jamie Hoel, Chelsea Griffith and Lauren Creadick; and five great-grandchildren, Emma Shaw, Jack Shaw, Kate Shaw, Elliana Hoel and Cayden Griffith. Also surviving Jim is his sister, Milnore Hall; and numerous nieces and nephews. Jim graduated from Evanston High School in 1939 and later that year entered Colgate University. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Jim left college and entered the Army Air Force as a Second Lieutenant and bombardier/navigator in a B-26 Marauder. On May 17, 1943, Jim's plane was shot down in Holland on the way to his first bombing mission. Jim was captured and spent the next two years as a prisoner of war in Stalag Luft III, the POW camp made famous as the site of "The Great Escape", where Jim and other prisoners helped dig the escape tunnels. Following the war, Jim married Jean on December 8, 1945 and together returned to Colgate where Jim graduated in 1947. Jim and Jean returned to Evanston where they remained for the rest of their lives. Jim was first employed in the advertising department of the Chicago Tribune and later entered the nascent television industry, working for WMAQ as Director of Sales until his retirement in 1976. Jim's family and friends remember fondly his brief notoriety as the WMAQ weatherman, filling in during a general broadcasting strike. Following WMAQ, Jim worked at Baird & Warner Real Estate, serving as Vice President and Manager of the Evanston office until 2002. Jim was actively involved in numerous community activities Member and Vice President of the Chicago and Evanston Rotary Clubs, Deacon and Trustee of Northminster Presbyterian Church, Member of the Evanston School Board Caucus, YMCA club and Little League coach and beloved Cotillion partner with daughter Kim. Jim's family and friends fondly remember his love of home life. He was an avid gardener and everyone looked forward to the spectacular array of new colors that came and went throughout the spring, summer and fall. Jim loved working with his hands and the furniture and clocks he built throughout his life will also preserve his memory for all generations to come. In 2003, Jim's life took an emotional turn when he learned that his treasured Gallet Chronometer watch, an enlistment present from his employer, which was lost when his B-26 was shot down,

had been found 60 years later. The amazing story quickly spread and with the encouragement of his wife and children, Jim returned to Europe with son Gil to retrace his wartime experiences. It was both a moving and healing journey. He received a hero's welcome by the citizens of Rozenburg, Holland, visited the site where his plane crashed and paid his respects at the cemetery that held the remains of many of his comrades lost on that fateful day in May, 1943. To that point, Jim had spent little time recounting his own incredible story of struggle and ultimate survival. "It's hard," he said, "to think that any one story of a survivor is important enough to tell with all of the white crosses I saw that day, and that I know stand-alone today all over the world." The "Gallet Watch" experience opened a door and Jim spent the next years sharing his story with transfixed members of younger generations at church and community gatherings and with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren's school classes. Jim was loved by everyone who met him and though his story was one of heroism, he always shared it with utmost humility. In August 2012, Jim and his watch were honored as part of the "Enlisting Time" exhibit at the National Watch & Clock Museum in Columbia, Pennsylvania along with other military leaders and their famous timepieces, including George Washington and Harry Truman. Following Jim's "reunion" with his watch, he began to gather with three of his "roommates" in Stalag Luft III. For a period of time, the group met annually until health problems prevented travel. Two of the men passed away a number of years ago and in 2009 Jim's good friend, Judge Anthony Alaimo, a well-respected Federal Judge in Brunswick, Georgia, passed away. Jim wrote to his children shortly thereafter, expressing how close he had been with these friends. "Now I am the last one," Jim wrote. Jim is now gone as well but none will ever be forgotten. Those who knew Jim and Jean best will remember their lives as a true 20th century love story. For weeks prior to Jean's death 8 months ago, Jim, with tears in his eyes, told Jean to always remember "the summer of '45". Fresh from War's horrific experiences, Jim and Jean fell deeply in love soon after Jim returned and were married in December of that year. It became clear to all that Jim's deepest desire during the past months had been to join his true love. This December Jim and Jean will have been married for 69 years and they will be together again. In Celebration of Jim's life, in lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Geneva Foundation at the Presbyterian Home.