



Robert "Bob" Rydman

April 27, 2008

Rydman, Robert Halsey "Bob" Age 87, of Minneapolis, died April 23 after joy-filled decades with family, friends and colleagues. Born in La Plata, Argentina to his Swift and Company executive father, Gustav Hjalmer Rydman and mother Ada Halsey, he arrived by banana boat in the states and took up a lifetime residence in Nebraska. He met the love of his life and bride for 65 years, Shirley Marie Hoffman, in Omaha's Dundee Elementary classroom wooing her with unsolicited kisses and charm. Bob graduated from St. John's Military Academy and later fought valiantly in WWII as an army tank captain. He launched his fighting campaign in North Africa and battled through Italy, France and Germany. After returning home he was blessed with his first child, Carol Rydman Lord, and received his law degree from the University of Nebraska. His insurance career spanned three decades including General Council for North American Life and Casualty and President of Lincoln Benefit Life. He had a passion for writing and won the McKnight Foundation Award for Literature in 1968. Bob passed on his love of story-telling and music to his son, Rob Rydman, who shares Bob's passion for golf, ponies and blackjack. He celebrated his 80th birthday in Las Vegas with son-in-law Bill Lord and family, applying his "How to Win at Casino Blackjack" magic on the Vegas dealers. His two granddaughters, Kim Arndt and Kris Criscione, along with their husbands, Tom and Rob, provided Bob's most enthusiastic audience. He frequently regaled his six great-grandchildren (Sophie, Will, Nick, Ellie, Sam and Charlie) with stories of near misses on the battlefield, crooning with Irving

Berlin on piano in Rome and perfect pars with his Broadway-singing buddy, Gordon MacRae. His last round of golf included his first hole-in-one. Memorials in Bob's honor are preferred to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Minnesota, 615 First Ave. NE, Mpls, MN 55413. Private family service. Although our favorite storyteller is gone, his stories live on. Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel 952-920-3996