



Robert Lewis Findorff

April 15, 1929 - June 7, 2020

Robert L. Findorff, 91, of Tampa, FL passed away on June 7, 2020. He was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Jocelyn, and sons Robert and Paul. Survived by daughters Jean Findorff, Laura (Doug) Norberg, and Mary (Alan Peterson) Findorff, and sons Karl (Cindy) Findorff and John (Nancy) Findorff. Also survived by 11 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, plus 2 step-grandchildren and 3 step-great grandchildren. He is also survived by his well-loved scoundrel of a cat, Sunshine.

Bob was born in Northeast Minneapolis to Hugo and Elfriede Findorff. He graduated from Edison High School and went into the army for the GI benefits. After the army, he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Minnesota, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Minnesota, and a Juris Doctor magna cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law. He also served in the Air Force Reserves as an officer.

Bob and Jocelyn married in 1953 and raised 7 children in Chicago, IL, Bloomington, MN, Cresco, IA, and Edina, MN. He worked for Donaldson Company, Inc. for 36 years, retiring in 1994 as senior vice president. Upon retirement, he and Jocelyn relocated to Tampa, FL where they spent many years traveling the world, making new friends, and engaging in lifelong learning. Bob was involved in mentorship through SCORE in Florida. He was

also a strong supporter of college education and athletics, establishing scholarships at the University of Minnesota, St. Catherine University and Central Lakes College and vociferously cheering for many hapless sports teams in both Minnesota and Florida. He was curious and always wanted to learn more about history so he took many classes through OLLI of the University of South Florida, primarily focusing on the Civil War. He eventually learned so much that he began teaching courses himself.

The family would like to extend our deep gratitude to Bob's sister-in-law, Lynn Roth and her husband, John for watching over Bob these past many years. Their genuine caring gave us peace while we lived far away. We also want to thank the caring staff at Arbor Terrace, Citrus Park, FL for the patience and kindness they extended towards Bob over the last eight months. We also want to thank his many doctors, especially Dr. Bymaster and Dr. Wong. Due to COVID-19, a private funeral will be held on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church of Edina. Private interment following at St. Mary's cemetery in Minneapolis. The funeral service will be viewable after June 24 on Robert's tribute wall under "Obituaries" at www.washburn-mcreavy.com: <https://www.washburn-mcreavy.com/obituaries/Robert-Findorff/#!/TributeWall>

Minnesota: Memorials preferred to CommonBond Communities. People can give online via <https://commonbond.org/donate/make-your-gift/> or mail to: CommonBond, 1080 Montreal Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55116. In memo line put "Robert L Findorff"

Florida: Memorials preferred to USF Foundation, Inc. (OLLI), <https://giving.usf.edu/where/institutes-centers/osher-lifelong-learning-institute>, Attn: Donor Relations, University of South Florida, 4202 E. Fowler Avenue, ALC100, Tampa, FL 33620

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert Lewis Findorff



Washburn-McReavy - June 24, 2020 at 11:45 AM

RB

“ I first met Bob in 1965 at the Hopkins House when Donaldson Company was celebrating its' 50th year anniversary.. Bob was at the door "greeting" everyone who attended & announcing that he was the Plant Manager of a new plant in Cresco, Iowa. I did not realize at that time that I our paths would cross many times during my career at Donaldson. Later I worked at the DCI on Pelham Blvd in St. Paul when he was Plant Manager.. Over my 42 years at DCI I worked on many projects where Bob provided the "final" signature in the process of getting approval for a major capital expenditure. I always knew he would consider my request thoroughly & fairly. It was an honor & pleasure to work with him. He will be missed..

Richard Bucholtz - June 30, 2020 at 01:50 PM

NP

“*Bob was my mentor at Donaldson Company. I looked to him for insight and perspective. He always let you know what to expect in challenging situations and what success might look like. I will always be grateful for his guidance. But I also appreciated his curiosity and interest in travel and exploring the world. Whenever we traveled together he was exploring his environment, no matter where we might be. Whether a plant, a customer , or overseas entity, by the end of our trip, we had learned something new. Bob was a wonderful and caring person who will long be remembered.*

Nick Priadka - June 24, 2020 at 11:13 AM

SD

“ June 23rd, 2020

A Journey Remembered

In heart, in mind and in soul, Bob was forever young.

He loved his wife, and his family. And, as is the case with Grandpa's, he took a special delight in his grandkids. When he shared stories about them with me, I could hear a difference in his voice.

He was proud of America, and served his country with honor.

Bob traveled the world with Jocelyn, and for his longtime employer, the Donaldson Company. He enjoyed the experience of a memorable destination.

He liked to have a process and a purpose for action – a map for the future.

When he retired and was scheduling his annual driving trip to Florida. He'd plan to visit Civil War sites, either along the way, and even out of the way.

If fact, I learned considerably more about the Civil War, when he'd share his stops at numerous museums, battle fields, strategic towns and rail road junctions. Many details, I never knew.

And just like his map for the future. He felt strongly about the need and value of life long education –

When he shared with me some 25 years ago, that he was attending class at the local college, I said “Good for you”. Bob and I had many a conversation on the U.S. Constitution. And then I learned, he was giving lectures at the University on the historic document.

We covered a lot of topics over almost four decades. I feel blessed, by knowing and working with him.

As I look up toward heaven I say: “Thanks for the Memories Bob”!

Steve Davies

Steve Davies - June 23, 2020 at 08:26 AM

PH

“ When I first joined Donaldson Company I was a Financial Manager, responsible for the group which Bob headed up. I was impressed by so many things but especially that he would take the time to explain his decisions and his outlook on the business. He also told me a number of stories about his daughters - he was so proud!

Peggy Herrmann - June 22, 2020 at 03:06 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Robert Lewis Findorff.



June 22, 2020 at 02:07 PM

JH

“ Much has been said of Uncle Bob's love of learning. But he didn't always have time to focus. Someone could assemble a hilarious collage out of photographs of historic markers he didn't have time to read on family road trips. (At least he always chose to look at the historic thing and read the marker later.) One of my most memorable vacations was with Bob, Joc, John, Karl, and Mary to New England and Canada in 1975. Bob, the only child, was a family-man, and the Findorffs, a family-family. Coming from a broken home (back when there was such a thing) the times spent with the Findorffs, Bob at the helm, were incredibly dear to me.

Janet Hopf - June 22, 2020 at 12:14 PM

LR

“ I always loved the way that Bob could own a room. Whether in a gathering of family, students or strangers, Bob’s insatiable curiosity made each person feel important and interesting. His warm presence is greatly missed.

Lynn Roth - June 20, 2020 at 07:43 AM

DJ

“ Uncle Bob was a wonderful man and beloved uncle to our whole family. He was warm, kind, and generous, with a kind word toward everyone. He will be missed.

Deborah Jansen - June 19, 2020 at 09:32 PM

PM

“ Bob hired me in 1969. He wanted to use computers in manufacturing and was looking for someone to lead this effort. We had dinner at Gregory’s, talked baseball and he offered me the job.
He was a major part in the success at DCI.
Pat McCarthy

Pat Mccarthy - June 18, 2020 at 02:36 PM

JP

“ To all Mr. Findorff’s children; I worked for Bob one way or another for a good bit of my 21 year time with Donaldson. I would never have called him Bob, it wasn’t done.



He was a mentor to me from my initial interview and I valued his views even though we were of different generations. A man of integrity and principals in a for-profit company. Sometimes in short supply in America.

Jp Prah - June 18, 2020 at 12:16 PM

LO

“ Bob was a true friend to TCOIC and a supporter for many years. We send our condolences and gratitude. He also introduced us to Donaldson and that relationship endures. God bless you.

louis - June 18, 2020 at 10:51 AM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Robert Lewis Findorff.



June 18, 2020 at 10:26 AM

BS

“ One thing I learned from Uncle Bob is "it never hurts to ask." Whether is was at the farmer's stand near the lake buying all the blueberries they had left, or at the ballpark, or where ever. I could count an several great conversations on a variety of topics any time we visited. As long as one was about the Twins, of course.

Bob Shaver - June 17, 2020 at 05:41 PM

BS

Oops - should be "count ON several great conversations"

Bob Shaver - June 17, 2020 at 05:43 PM

LH

“ Uncle Bob was always so happy to be with family, sharing his wisdom and being generous with his time & resources. I've learned so much from him over the years. He will be deeply missed.

Laurie Hansen - June 17, 2020 at 04:44 PM

JR

Every time I think of Bob and Jocelyn together again I break into a smile.

John R. Roth - July 02, 2020 at 10:38 AM