



David Wilson Bradley

January 13, 2015

David Wilson Bradley of Bloomfield, formerly of West Hartford, died Tuesday, January 13, 2015. Dave lived a very full life to 93 ½, loving family and friends, and active right to the end. Born in New Haven June 12, 1921 of parents John Smith and Bonnie Cross Bradley, he graduated New Haven's Hillhouse High School 1939 and New Haven College 1948. A B-17 pilot, 1st LT, in WWII, flying had been a boyhood dream that Dave was able to realize because of the war. He enjoyed a 40-year career with SNET (AT&T) in New Haven starting in 1939, in Personnel and Medical departments. Dave was moved to Hartford by SNET in 1949, and in 1952 he married Betty Jean "Betts" Purrington. He was a dedicated, active contributor in local community affairs, especially with the YMCA, including positions such as Secretary/Assistant Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Hartford YMCA for 40 years. Dave was also delegate from the Hartford YMCA to the Centennial Conference of World YMCAs in Paris in 1955 as well as Representative from Hartford to both the YMCA National Council and the New England Area Council of YMCAs. He was a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Hartford Urban League, on the Board of Directors of the Hartford Family Service Society, the Greater Hartford Council on Alcoholism, the Hartford Civitan Club, and Fernleigh Lawn Bowling Club. Dave was active in multiple roles in the Universalist Church of West Hartford for over 50 years. In retirement he was active in the Old Guard of West Hartford and for many years chaired its Meals on Wheels program and received the annual "Rose of the VNA" award related to it. He was also a 100-pint Red Cross blood donor. Betts and Dave enjoyed travel and visiting and hosting people from other countries via Friendship Force. Known as the "candle maker" and "the fixer", Dave enjoyed woodworking, tennis, lawn bowling, growing roses, making bread, and most kinds of music, especially Barbershop and Dixieland. Dave and Betts celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their whole family in their most favorite place, Murren, Switzerland in 2002, and then later their 60th and 62nd anniversary. A dedicated husband and father, leaves his wife and their two sons, David Wilson Bradley, Jr. of Perkiomenville, PA, his wife Lynda and their daughters, Katie and Annie, and Robert Purrington Bradley of North Canton, CT, his wife Maria, their daughter Francesca and their son, Samuel David Purrington Bradley. Dave's generous, humorous and gregarious spirit will be missed by all.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 24, 11am at the Universalist Church, 433 Fern Street, West Hartford. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to YMCA of Greater Hartford, 241 Trumbull Street #1, Hartford, CT 06103 (www.ghymca.org) or Universalist Church, 433 Fern Street, West Hartford, CT 06107 Attn: Patricia Lee/D. Bradley Commemorative Fund. For directions and online condolences, please visit www.taylorandmodeen.com.

Comments



“ Betts and family,I worked for the Hartford YMCA for 21 years and Dave was one of my favorite volunteers. He had had a rich YMCA experience well before I arrived and was still at it when I retired.He spoke of being a young man, new in town and staying in the YMCA residence until he had made his own real estate plans. He spoke about the international gathering he was part of back in the 1950s.He served on the Board of Directors and as Secretary of the Board for 40 years. I remember the dinner that Betts and David put on for a large group of visiting Russians who were involved in developing the YMCA in the city of Novosibirsk. Most importantly, he loved people, had a welcoming smile and seemed to really care about the people with whom he interacted. For the last 15 years we shared membership in Old Guard, the senior men's club affiliated with the YMCA.May God bless you all, may your grief be balanced with wonderful memories.

Bob Hoffman - West Hartford, CT - January 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ A co-worker at SNET from the 1960s to the 1990s and a Jazz fan to age 93, it was an honor to have known Dave. A true gentleman. May he rest in peace.

Fred Vigorito - Guilford, CT - friend - January 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ I was sorry to hear of Dave's passing. There are so many good memories of family gatherings. Hadenville and with the Carpenter's. Dave' love of people was so well felt by me even as a youngster. Love and prayers to you all. Nancy Adgate Peffers

Nancy Peffers - Wilmington , Ma - January 24, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Betts and Family: Our deepest sympathies to you and your sons, David and Robert, and their respective families. David will be missed, but never forgotten. He has been a member of our Y family for 86 years and his many contributions will continue in perpetuity. Thank you for sharing him with us. Personally, I will be forever moved by the generosity of spirit he shared with me. My prayers go out to you in this time of loss. James

James Morton - Hartford, CT - YMCA Family - January 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Betts, Please accept our sincere condolences. We have fond memories of our shared exchange experience with you and Dave, especially the incoming exchange with Taiwan. Dave had a full and rewarding life, and God Bless you and your family in the coming years. Warm regards, Chet and Sally Kuras

Sally and Chet Kuras - West Suffield, CT - Friendship Force Friend - January 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ My fondest memory of Mr. Bradley was our 4 family vacations on square pond in Maine. We had so much fun doing the simple things in life, swimming, singing by the camp Fire, doing Madlibs, and the most memorable Lion Hunts, lead by him. He made the hunt come alive for our young minds. I always remember his zest for life and his kindness shown to all of us kids.

Suzanne Haviland Best - Friend of family - January 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ You are the candlelight in our winter nights; the roses of our summer. Love you!

Beth & Jeff Colley - Canton, CT - January 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Our heartfelt sympathies in this, your time of grief.

Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home - West Hartford, CT - January 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Sending love to all the Bradley's and their family during this time of loss. We all so loved Dave and all that he brought to our family vacations. He was the best "Lion Hunt" story teller ever and I will always hold the image of his robust gesticulations in my excited heart. He cheered us all so which I think was his great gift to humanity actually. I will treasure his laugh, his kindness, his creativity and his devotion to his family and friends. You will live on in all our hearts, dear Dave and we will miss you so very much.

Hope Haviland - Strafford, VT - old family friend - January 16, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ It saddens me greatly to hear of Grandpa Dave's passing. He was always such generous and friendly company, and he has always been a beloved family member to the Luo family. Grandpa Dave has graced the world with his presence and leaves only wonderful memories for those who knew him.

Love,

Katie, Kevin, Qian, and Hai

Katie Luo - Central Valley, NY - Family friend - January 16, 2015 at 12:00 AM