

50

Robert P. Bull

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Bonita Springs, FL

Robert Perrin Bull, age 91, of Bonita Springs, Florida, passed away peacefully in his sleep of natural causes on March 6, 2018. Born January 19, 1927, in Illinois to Jane Story and Lothrop Perkins Bull, he was a fourth generation piano man. His great-grandfather, Hampton L. Story, was co-founder of the Story & Clark Piano Company and the Hotel del Coronado.

Raised primarily in Glencoe, Illinois, Bob, fondly known as RP, spent two high school years in the Carolinas, leaving high school before graduating to enlist in the Navy at the age of 17 during World War II. After the war, he attended Williams College, graduated in 1950 with a degree in English and History, and married the lovely Connie Whitaker in La Jolla, CA, a marriage that lasted 28 years.

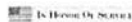
Bob began his career working for Werlein's in New Orleans, gaining retail piano experience before joining his family's company, Story & Clark Pianos, in Chicago, eventually working his way up to the Presidency. In the early 1960's he orchestrated a joint venture with Yamaha, believed to be Yamaha's first JV. In 1970, Bob briefly left the musical instruments industry to step in as chef at the resort he co-owned, the Homestead in Utah's Heber Valley. There he honed culinary skills he enjoyed sharing with family and friends throughout his life. In 1972 he was recruited by CBS Music to lead the Fender Guitar Company. From 1972 to 1977, he served as President of Fender, Rhodes Pianos and Rogers Drums, to the delight of his teenage children who enjoyed back stage passes and dinners at home with touring rock stars, as well as front row seats to tapings of popular CBS television shows. He became the President of Steinway & Sons in 1977, the first President outside the Steinway family since its founding.

Bob retired in 1979, traveled extensively, engaged in consulting work, and became an ACBL Gold Life Master, participating in national and international duplicate bridge tournament play with his favorite Bonita Bridge Club partner, Elizabeth Shulke. A pilot and a sailor, Bob lived life as a maverick, stressing self-reliance, discipline and independence. He will be remembered for his deep abiding love of nature and dogs, literature and history, and his pursuit of charitable endeavors. He enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren at his secluded Wisconsin north woods retreat, and took them traveling the world to all seven continents, teaching them about the history of the world and reciting from memory extended passages from Shakespeare, the Canterbury Tales and other classic works. Known among family and friends as a brilliant man and a fascinating raconteur, he maintained his wit and humor to the end.

Loving father of David Bull, Martha (Robert) Nadeau, Leslie Bull (Tom Hancuch), Julie Bull; adored grandfather of Danny and Jennie Bull, Morgan and Max Mosky, the late Caitlin Bull, and great-grandfather of Dalia Bull. "None Better!"

Private services will be held. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that any donations be made to the Caitlin Bull Foundation, <http://www.caitlinbullfoundation.org>.

Online condolences may be left by visiting www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home & Crematory. Family owned and operated since 1978.



Funeral Home

Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home

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