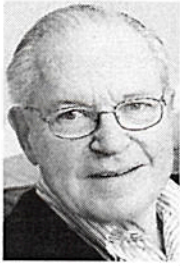


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**David Wheeler Thurston**



David Wheeler Thurston, 93

TUCSON, Ariz. - David Wheeler Thurston, 93, died peacefully in Tucson, Ariz., surrounded by his four beloved children.

Born on April 25, 1923, in Portland, Dave was a ninth generation American dating back to 1635, and originating from Kent, England. Prior to their passing, Dave's parents, Theodore and Kathryn Thurston, lived in Cumberland Foreside.

A graduate of Phillips Academy Andover (1940), and Williams College (1944, cum laude), Dave was a member of Chi Psi and the Gargoyle Honor Society, editor of the college paper, and captain of the varsity soccer team.

After Pearl Harbor in 1941, Dave volunteered for the U.S. Army Air Corps as a flight navigator. After the war, Dave worked as an advertising executive in New York City for over 40 years, helping found Broadcast Advertisers Reports, and retiring as executive vice president in 1987.

On Nov. 27, 1954, Dave married Frances Davis, and they raised their family in Rye, N.Y., until 1998, then retiring to Tucson, Ariz., where his beloved Fran died in 2004. During his four decades in Rye, Dave served as a tireless advocate for his local community, including a dozen years at the non-profit charity Rye United Fund, Inc. (including as president), 10 years on the Rye School Board (1970-80, also as president), and, after retiring, for nine years as a volunteer recruiter for the International Executive Services Corps, placing 272 executives on projects in 60 different countries.

Leaving work early or giving up his weekends, Dave actively participated in the lives of his four children, whether it was cheering them at their high school or college sporting events, helping them with crafts at the Indian Guides, navigating them down the slopes of a Vermont ski resort, driving them in a Winnebago on numerous family vacations, or handing them their diploma as a school board member. The Thurston household was always the focal point of activity for the kids and their numerous family pets.

Personally, Dave was always very active and fit; he loved baseball, skiing and tennis. With a keen intellect and sharp wit, Dave was a voracious reader, and he always finished his daily New York Times crossword puzzles -- usually in pen.

With their many close family friends, Dave and Fran hosted many celebratory weekend and holiday parties at their Rye home, where the laughter was always infectious, and Dave often regaled the guest of honor with a handcrafted limerick on a pull-down shade.

Dave is survived by his four children, Ted (59), of San Jose, Calif.; Charlie (58, and Kimberly), of Rye, N.Y.; Nancy (56), of Bigfork, Mont., and Jim (54), of Glenview, Ill.; his sister Joan Spear (89), of Ashland, Ore.; six grandchildren, Taylor (19), Kyle (18), Isabel (17), David II (14), Natalie (13), and Ellie (11); and his beloved nieces, nephews, and their children.

A memorial service will be held this spring in at the Rye Presbyterian Church, where his remains will join those of his late wife, Fran.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the  
Rye Presbyterian Church  
Memorial Garden  
Boston Post Road  
Rye, NY 10580



