



## Robert “Bob” Farrell

Farrell, Robert 'Bob' E. 87 December 10th, 1927 - August 14th, 2015

Robert "Bob" E. Farrell went to be with his Lord and Savior on Friday, Aug. 14, 2015. He passed away peacefully at the age of 87 in Portland, with his wife of 64 years and daughters by his side. He died from complications of Alzheimer's type dementia. His last months were spent at Gracelen Terrace, where he received wonderful care. Bob was born Dec. 10, 1927, in Brooklyn, N.Y. After his father's untimely death when he was 4 years old, he and his sister were placed in a church run children's home in Yonkers, N.Y. They remained there for five years until his mother remarried and was able to re-assume responsibility for their care. He often said, "I cried when I went in and I cried when I had to leave." He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1945. While stationed at McChord Field in Washington State, he met his wife, Ramona "Mona" Rod, in a chance encounter at a local dance. Correspondence and occasional visits kept them connected during his years of service and schooling. They were married July 28, 1951. Having never graduated from high school, Bob received his G.E.D. or "Good Enough Diploma," as he referred to it. He later found his calling and went on to graduate from Packard College in New York and the University of Washington, earning degrees in business and marketing. Bob was a salesman for Libby McNeill in Seattle and Walla Walla, and transferred to Portland in 1961, where he and Mona continued to raise their daughters, Kathy, Kristie and Colleen. In 1963, Bob opened up his first Farrell's Ice Cream Parlor with business partner, Kenneth McCarthy. He had two goals in mind: keep the customers smiling and provide employees with fun and rewarding work. Farrell's was one of the fastest growing restaurants of its time. Later, Bob became a partner of Pacific Coast Restaurants and helped build a string of Stanford's and Newport Bay restaurants in Oregon, Washington and Northern California. In 1995, Farrell left the restaurant business and provided customer service consultation to companies like Nordstrom's, Nike and Safeway. His service training model, "Give 'em the Pickle," is still used today across several industries. Bob loved the Lord. He never shied away from letting people know that the source of his hope and strength came from Jesus Christ. He combined his love of fun, faith and helping young people by becoming involved in Young Life Ministries. Some of the best weeks of his life were spent at Malibu, in Canada, working with the camp's crews. Of all his accomplishments though, family was his priority. As a husband, father and grandfather, he was intentional and intentionally fun. He was personally humble, but loudly proud of his family. He highly valued getting everyone together for any occasion, including road trips, river-rafting adventures, numerous weeks at family camp and holidays at the beach. He loved making us laugh and always pointed us to Jesus, giving Him all the credit. We will miss his kind words, thoughtful notes and steadfast support. Bob is survived by his wife, Mona; daughters, Kathy Farrell, Kristie Booster and her husband, Richard, and Colleen Smith and her husband, Scott; grandchildren, Elizabeth, Ramona, Nate, Abbie, Emma, Matthew, Conor and Cramer; and seven great-grandchildren. Bob was preceded in death by his sister, Margie Jameson. A celebration of Bob Farrell's life will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, 2015, at New Heights Church's main campus, 7913 N.E. 58th Ave., Vancouver. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you consider making a donation to [Young Life](#) or the [Dementia Society of America](#).