



Robert "Topa" Erickson

January 23, 1926 - July 17, 2010

Robert Floyd "Topa" Erickson, 84, passed away on July, 17, 2010, in Spread Eagle, WI following a day with his family and a sunset pontoon boat ride.

Robert was born on January 23, 1926 in Norway, MI to the late Axel and Ida (Grunsmark) Erickson. In his senior year of high school he was drafted at the age of 17 into the Marines and saw combat action on the island of Iwo Jima. He was honorably discharged after three years of serving his country. Bob then return to Norway High School and graduated at the age of 21. Bob worked as a carpenter with his brother Erling for two years and then moved to be with his sister Betty in Chicago, IL to attend watch repair school. While attending watch repair schooling Bob entered amateur golf tournaments and won his first big tournament in 1950, The Mid-West Amateur Tournament . He was then asked to become a Pro in 1956 and work at Lincolnshire Golf Course in Linconshire, IL. He started the Pro Tour in 1968.

Bob always had a love for the game of golf. As a young man his first club he constructed was out of a cedar tree with the knot of the wood as the head. Robert 's Pro career flourished as he entered more tournaments and won. He gives credit to many distinguished people along the way that helped him get established, including Solhim, the owner of Ping, that became his sponsor. One of Bob's finest moments in golf was when he was leading the U.S. Open in 1970. Bob played in tournaments around the country and world and had the

honor of playing with Presidents Bush and Carter and many pro football players and actors. While on the pro tour he met and married Mona Erickson and adopted her son, Dean. They made their home in Orlando, Florida. Mona passed away in 2002. In 1980 he joined the Senior Tour and upon retiring in the mid-90's he continued to teach golf. He loved being around people and finished out his life as a greeter/security guard for Wal-Mart. Robert recently returned to his hometown to have a knee surgery and be close to family, always with the hope to swing the club one more time. He spent his final days in glory at Oak Crest Golf Course catching up with old friends and giving tips to young golfers.

He was preceeded in death by his wife, four brother, Erling, Eugene, Everett and George; four sisters, Elizabeth Ripke, Edith Jensen, Elsie Erickson & Ester Erickson.

Robert is survived by his son, Dean (Debbie) Erickson (Fl.), many nieces and nephews including from this area Gayle (Craig) Nault, (Spread Eagle, WI) and Gill (Laurie) Erickson (Kingsford, MI). He will be deeply missed by Pastor Paul Davis, Tom and Chris Henry and their families of Orlando, FL, Randy Arnett, Bob Wurzer of Norway, who got him to the Oak Crest Golf Course , and many friends he touched along the way.

A memorial has been established in Bob Erickson's name for the benefit of children interested in golf.

A memorial service will be held at a later date and announced at that time.

Condolences to the family of Robert "Topa" Erickson can be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home of

Iron Mountain with the funeral arrangements.

Tribute Wall

MH

“ I had the honor of being his cady for 2 rounds on a very hot summers day at Del Paso Country Club, it was the Gene Littler Swing at Cancer event. What a gentleman and an honor for me to be his cady. I will always have fond memories of that day on the course with Mr. Erickson.

Michael - Sacramento, CA - Caddied 2 rounds for him - September 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ I caddied for "Doc" in many PGA Tour and Florida events. He was a true gentleman of the game who was always ready to give more to you than he could ever recieve back. I will always cherish the laughs and good times with Doc and Mona.

Kevin Anderson - Friend - September 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ Hi--I knew Bob when he was the 'head pro' at Deer Run Country Club [Casselberry, FL] back in the late 70`s. He was the nicest guy in the world and was very unassuming for a gentleman with his incredible golfing talents. I played many rounds of golf with him as well as spend many hours watching him hit golf balls at the DRCC driving range. His golfing ability was unbelievable to say the least. I am a better person to have known him and his 'wild wife' Mona and am very thankful for the true blessing of being friends with Bob Erickson! i will miss you Bob--thank you for your friendship nd kindness to me at 'Deer Run CC'. You are a true gentleman for sure!

Kim Liggett - July 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ We will greatly miss him and had hoped to take care of him, we are saddend of the loss of this great and kind man.

Love

Debbie and Dean Erickson

Debbie Erickson - Orlando, FL - daughter-in-law - July 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Bob was about as regular a fixture as you could get at out driving range. We have missed him a lot for the last few months while he was recovering from his knee. Everybody knew him and liked him and he was quite a legend around the clubhouse. I think he was the only golfer to ever impress our head pro with his skills. We have definately lost a member of our family. God speed Bob.

claude gerard - orlando, FL - friend - July 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ It was certainly a blessing to know Bob. Few people could be more gracious, humble, kind and caring. Everyone here in Winter Park loved the man. He was a mentor and dear friend. My heart goes out to his family and friends.

Randy Arnett - Winter Park, FL - friend - July 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Our hearts are sad...but we know Heaven is rejoicing with Bob there. We met him in FLorida at his and our wonderful friends...Tom and Chris Henry. God has blessed us with knowing him for a short time. We pray his family and friends like Tom and Chris who loved him so much, feels comfort in knowing he brought such joy to others, and that you all feel God's peace

Love

Scott and Michelle Wilson

Scott & Michelle Wilson - St Marys, WV - Friends - July 19, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Bob will be missed by many. He was not only a mentor in golf to me and my family but also a great friend to us. Are hearts are with sadness. Tim, Pam, Caitlin, Tim Jr, and Eric

Tim Henry - Oviedo, FL - Friend - July 19, 2010 at 12:00 AM