

## ROBERT K. "BOB" "BUZZ" WAGNER



Scott Township, PA, formerly of Upper St. Clair, PA. Robert K. Wagner (Bob) (Buzz) a resident of Providence Point Retirement Community, died peacefully on January 2, 2024. He was 92 years old and the beloved husband of the late Elinor (Ellie) Kay (Redfern) Wagner, who died in January 2022. They were married 69 years ago at the Marine Corps Chapel, in Quantico, Virginia. Surviving

are cherished children: daughter, Susanne J. Wagner of Mt. Lebanon; sons, Robert E. (Beth) Wagner, and Steven J. (Susan) Wagner, both of Upper St. Clair, and R. Keith (Joan) Wagner of Dublin, Ohio. Also, survived by eight spectacular grandchildren: Bradford, Kyle Elinor (Michael Woomer), Clay, Kent, Emma, Steven, Jillian, and Grace. He was delighted to become a great-grandfather to Merritt Woomer, in October 2023. Also, survived by a nephew, Mark (Diane) VerBryck, and family of Chicago; niece, Karen (Bill) Heuer, and family of Annapolis, Maryland. Bob was preceded in death by their parents Sylvester N. and Marian (Keenoy) Wagner; and by his sister, Jean (Wagner) VerBryck, and husband Brad.

A graduate of Mt. Lebanon High School (where he met his future wife Ellie in study hall), and the Universities of Notre Dame and Pittsburgh, and after service as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corp., Bob began his career in 1953 with the former Koppers Co., Inc. at its Pittsburgh headquarters. His 45-year Koppers career involved a large number of job changes including several years living in the delightful city of Charleston, South Carolina. Following the 1989 reorganization of Koppers after its acquisition by an English Company, Beazer, LTD, Bob led a management buy-out and was then elected President and CEO of the surviving Koppers assets known then, as Koppers Industries, Inc., and today, as Koppers, Inc. In 1994, he was named Chairman of Koppers Industries, Inc. After his retirement in 1999, he received the Chairman Emeritus designation.

Following his retirement, he engaged in community activities, reading, bridge, some really bad golf, and managing the affairs of the Wagner Family Charitable Trust, a philanthropic foundation that he founded in 2000.

Over the years, he and his wife Ellie traveled extensively, both domestically and internationally. Also, they hosted many wonderful family vacations, primarily in Hilton Head, SC, Stone Harbor, NJ, and Jackson Hole, WY (in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary) which were well-attended and looked forward to by all family members. On these annual family vacations, "Papa Buzz" especially enjoyed presiding over annual Texas Hold-em poker tournaments with the grandchildren.

Family and friends recall his personable, humorous, and engaging manner and were inspired by his kind and generous disposition. Some may not know that Buzz had an adventurous side. Family members remember fondly his fascination with flight (hang-gliding, hot air balloon rides, parasailing, etc.). He also dabbled briefly in the equestrian world with the acquisition of a racehorse who he named "Bradford J".

Bob was an active Board Member of the Rankin Christian Center, serving the boroughs of Rankin, Braddock, and surrounding areas, for more than 50 years and was proud of being named Volunteer of the Year by the Rankin community in 2010.

His other community affiliations include the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, The Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging, and the Allegheny Housing Rehabilitation Corporation, where he was elected its first President at its formation in 1966 while on a leave of absence from Koppers.

He served as a Board Member of Integra Bank, Trion, Inc., (Sanford, North Carolina), and Chairman of Koppers Australia, Inc.

He was the past President of St. Clair Country Club and a longtime member of the Square Knights of the Round Table (Duquesne Club).

Arrangements by **BEINHAUERS** of McMurray, PA. Burial at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies will be private. All are invited to a Memorial Mass to be held Friday, February 16, 2024, at 10:00 am at St. John Capistran Church (Resurrection Parish), immediately followed by a reception at Crown Plaza Suites Pittsburgh South, 164 Ft. Couch Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts might be made to The Association of Ladies of Charity - Resurrection Parish, 1610 McMillan Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241, or the Rankin Christian Center (Minney Scholarship Fund), 230 Third Avenue, Rankin, PA 15104.