

James Robert "Bob" Edwards

James Robert (Bob) Edwards

Greenville, SC

James Robert (Bob) Edwards passed away on November 12, 2015 in Greenville, SC. Mr. Edwards was born in Dallas, North Carolina (Gaston County) on October 4th, 1923 to Jennings Bryan and Ruby H. Edwards. He is survived by children; James R. Edwards, Jr. (Regina), Carol E. Burns, Frank B. Edwards (Marie), by grandchildren; Amanda, Cynthia, Roxanna, Dianna, Kelly, Patrick, and Krista, by four great grandchildren, and by his niece Gail. He was pre-deceased by his wife Ruth, his brother J. B. Edwards, Jr., and granddaughter Priscilla.

Bob grew up in Wilmington, North Carolina and graduated New Hanover High School in 1941. He entered North Carolina State University as an engineer major, a student athlete, and an active member of ROTC. A year later he earned an appointment and was admitted to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis but was later denied entrance due to a previous football injury. In 1944, he enlisted in the [U.S. Navy](#) and was commissioned as an officer after attending the U.S. Navy Midshipman School at Columbia University in N.Y. During [World War II](#) he served in the Pacific aboard the carrier USS Santee. One of his greatest memories was expectantly finding his brother, who was deployed to Europe two years earlier, in Okinawa during its occupation.

After release from active duty in 1946, Bob returned to North Carolina State University and graduated in 1948 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. At State, he earned three varsity letters both in football and baseball and one varsity letter in basketball. He was a member of the NC State 1947 Gator Bowl squad. After graduation, he attended UNC Chapel Hill and earned a Master of Arts in Education. His military service continued for another 22 years in the [Army](#) and Navy Reserves until his retirement as a Major. Bob played professional baseball in 1948 and 1949, pitching for several minor league teams. He continued to enjoy both baseball and football throughout his life, attending NC State home games for some 60 years. He also was an avid golfer who treated his family to over 50 years of Masters Tournament trips.

During summer employment as a swim instructor for the YMCA in Virginia, he met Ruth whom he married in 1952. Bob was employed by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Wilmington, North Carolina District that same year and began a 27 year career. He served as Chief of the Construction Branch from 1965 until his retirement in 1980. Some of the major projects conducted during his tenure were the Masonboro Inlet Jetties, the CERC Experimental Pier at Duck, N.C., the U.S. Postal Service Bulk Mail Center in Greensboro, N.C., and the Jordan Lake and Falls Lake Dam Projects. After growing up as a member of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wilmington, Bob and Ruth became members of St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church. In the early 1970s he chaired the committee leading the construction of St. Matthew's sanctuary which is still in use today.

Following his retirement, Bob and Ruth moved to the Olde Point Community in Hampstead, and later to Southern Pines, North Carolina. Bob and Ruth traveled extensively in their motor home in the US, Canada, and Mexico for sightseeing and to visit family and friends. His children and grandchildren will remember him for teaching, by example, the value of hard work, education, duty and devotion to family and friends.

Graveside services will be held through Andrews Mortuary at Greenlawn Memorial Park, Wilmington N.C at 11:00 on Friday, November 20.

Condolences may be sent to www.andrewsmortuary.com

**Funeral Home**

Andrews Mortuary & Crematory - Market Street Chapel
1617 MARKET ST Wilmington, NC 28401
910-762-7788

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