

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

ROBERT W.P. CUTLER, M.D.

(1933 -2004)

Bob Cutler was born in New York City on August 3, 1933 and died at his beloved home on a hilltop above Livermore on April 12, 2004. In between, he had a rich and varied and accomplished life. His two middle initials represent those of his maternal grandfather, William Parsons.

Bob's father headed an international shipping company. Bob had one brother, an epidemiologist, who was in the United States Diplomatic Corps and the World Health Organization in Geneva. The family moved to New Canaan, Connecticut, during Bob's childhood and that is where he grew up. In addition, the family had a home in Kennebunk, Maine, so sailing became a major activity during Bob's childhood and adulthood. He was an accomplished sailor, both racing and pleasure boating, and sailed a 36-foot yawl, the Kala, out of Chicago. Another favored activity was birding, which he enjoyed for many years.

Bob had his undergraduate education at Harvard (BA 1953) and his medical education at Tufts (M.D. 1957). He completed his internship at the University of Chicago the following year and then served in the U.S. Army as a captain in the Medical Corps and Commanding Officer of the 546th General Medical Dispensary in Mannheim, Germany. After completion of his tour of duty in the Army, he returned to the University of Chicago to complete his residency and a USPHS Fellowship in Neurology, finishing in 1964. For the following two years he was a Special Fellow of the National Institute of Neurologic Diseases and Blindness at the Children's Hospital Medical Center in Boston. His first faculty appointments were Harvard Medical School including assignments at both the Children's Hospital Medical Center and the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. He occupied these positions until 1968 when he returned to the University of Chicago as Associate Professor of Medicine (Neurology). He was awarded a joint appointment in the Department of Pharmacology in 1971, and in 1974 was promoted to Professor in both departments. Bob moved to Stanford as Professor of Neurology later in 1974.

During his residency and fellowship years, Bob became interested in the transport of both large and small particles from the blood plasma to the brain and spinal fluid in healthy and diseased states. In the 20-year period from 1964 to 1984, Bob was author or co-author of over 50 manuscripts in the field published in leading journals. In addition, he wrote several book chapters and review articles on the subject. His special clinical expertise was in Parkinson's Disease, and he was a highly sought-after consultant for patients with this debilitating disease as well as those with a wide variety of other neurological disorders. His diagnostic acumen was widely recognized. Importantly, his impressive skills were greatly appreciated by students. They admired his consummate professionalism and ability to engage patients thoughtfully, respectfully and with genuine compassion. No member of the Neurology faculty enjoyed more respect. Bob received Stanford's Kaiser Award for Outstanding and Innovative Contributions to Medical Education in 1985. He was a member

of a number of Medical and Neurological Associations and Societies and was a diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

In addition to his contributions in research, clinical care and teaching, Bob's administrative contributions marked the last decade-and-a-half of his active career. He was appointed Associate Dean for Medical Education in 1984. The following year the position of Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs was added. In 1988 he was appointed Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs by then-Dean David Korn. It was in this position that Bob had his major impact. He not only assumed decanal responsibility for all faculty appointments and promotions, a daunting task by itself, but, in addition, was the focal point for faculty dispute resolution in sensitive areas such as race and gender discrimination and academic fraud. Because of the way he handled these problems he became widely known and appreciated for his thoroughness, fairness and sensitivity. He not only hewed the line of proper process, he made certain that all parties to any dispute had a fair, impartial and confidential hearing. His judgments were near-Solomonic and widely appreciated. As his health deteriorated (he was a long-time victim of bullous emphysema and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) he relinquished his position as Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in 1995. He was appointed Professor of Neurology and Neurological Sciences Emeritus in 2000.

Bob remained active after his retirement, in reality up to the time of his death this year. In 1999 he published a book entitled *The Tin Box*. It was based on correspondence he and his brother found in a tin box under their father's bed following his death. Their great-grandfather had been a General in the Civil War, and the correspondence was not only to his own mother but that of some of his predecessors. One letter was signed "G. Washington."

His second book was entitled *Red Mountain*, published in 2001, in which he recounted the history of magnesite mining in the Livermore area. He and his wife Maggie lived on Mines Road in the hills above Livermore for the last 11 years of his life. Before that they had a small ranch farther out the same road where he shared his love of horses with Maggie. It was on this ranch that Bob undertook major construction projects including building fences, barns and irrigation systems.

Bob's most recent and most controversial book was published in 2003 by the Stanford University Press. It was entitled *The Mysterious Death of Jane Stanford*. In the book, Bob implies that Stanford's President at the time, David Starr Jordan, was involved in a cover-up of the circumstances surrounding Mrs. Stanford's death. A coroner's jury in Honolulu where she died found the cause of death to be strychnine poisoning. Jordan's subsequent investigation (he did not arrive in Honolulu until five days after Jane's death, by which time the coroner's jury had completed its work) pronounced her death to be due to "natural causes." Jordan's motivation, or even involvement in more serious matters related to Mrs. Stanford's death, was never clarified. Writing three books on three different subjects in four years is difficult enough, but Bob did it while tethered to an oxygen tank most of the time. He was aided in his work by the use of the internet, leg work by some close friends and associates and, especially, by his wife Maggie, without whom these books would never have been written.

While at the University of Chicago in 1970, Bob met Maggie Elkind. They were married a year later and had one son, Aaron. Bob had three sons, Chris, George and Robert, Jr. from previous marriages. All survive him.

Since 1993, Bob and Maggie have lived in their dream house situated on a hill-top high above Livermore. It is surrounded by 300 unspoiled acres of land. Even after driving 15 miles past Livermore, most of it on a curving and treacherous mountain road, there is an ascending mile of single-lane asphalt driveway to be negotiated. But the trip was always worth it. The circular house on a round pedestal commands spectacular views of the surrounding territory. Maggie's meticulous care of their home, plus the barn, corral and guest house, complete this picture.

Bob Cutler died of metastatic cancer to the brain, probably from a primary cancer in the lung, on April 12, 2004, at the age of 70. Even as his general health deteriorated and the brain metastases took their toll, Bob preferred to live, and die, at their home with Maggie at his side. His final days and hours were peaceful. This gentle and accomplished man will be sorely missed by his family and his many friends and colleagues.

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