



Robert Verner Carlson, Ed.D.

March 12, 1933 - September 19, 2022

Robert Verner Carlson, Ed.D.

Professor Emeritus

Robert Verner Carlson, 89, passed away on September 19, 2022. He was born in Buffalo, New York on March 12, 1933.

He served in the Armed Services from 1954 - 1956. He then pursued a career in education. He was a teacher and principal of three elementary schools in Rochester, New York, where he completed his doctorate studies in education. He was then principal at the University of Iowa Lab School and assistant professor at the University of Iowa, and went on to becoming professor at the University of Vermont from 1971 through 1995 preparing students for doctoral degrees in educational administration. He authored as well as co-authored three books on educational planning, theory and practice.

Always pursuing ways to serve the community, he acted as Guardian Ad Litem in the 12th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida. In 2001 he began teaching at Pierian Spring Academy, a Sarasota nonprofit that offered college-level seminar-style courses targeted to the area's sizable population of retirees. He then served as executive director thereof from 2003 - 2012. He believed the zest for learning was ageless and supported the educational goals of others through contributions to the University of Rochester, established a doctoral

scholarship program at the University of Vermont and made donations to the Community Foundation of Sarasota.

He enjoyed reading, attending seminars and concerts, traveling, sailing and golf. His travels included a University of Vermont teaching exchange program in Oulu, Finland.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents James and Ann (Claussen) Carlson and brother James Carlson.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Donna Marie (Johnson), his daughter Elizabeth (Niklaus) Lehmann-Carlson, son Verne Carlson (Janet Savage) and grandchildren: Anja (Sven) Lehmann Bachtold, Matthias (Lisa) Lehmann, Sina (Nicolas) Peronino. Great grandchildren: Noah, Livia and Medea Bachtold. He is also survived by his brothers Ronald (Linda) Carlson, John (Diane) Carlson, Terry (Karen) Carlson, sister Anna Mae Carlson, sister-in-law Gail Carlson as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews.

There will be no services and his remains are located at the Sarasota National Cemetery.

Donations may be made in Robert's memory to the Sarasota Orchestra, Community Foundation of Sarasota or the American Cancer Society.

Tribute Wall

DS

“ Bob and I worked together for many years...on the doctoral program and on committees and committees and committees. They never seemed to end. He was a good colleague and a friend. I enjoyed our time together. I wish you well.
David Shiman

david shiman - March 20, 2023 at 10:26 AM

SP

“ Bob’s zest for life and good humor always made me smile! Bob was charismatic, wise and young at heart. I will miss his wit and laugh. We enjoyed collaborating on positive aging pursuits through the Institute for the Ages and SunCoast Alliance for Lifelong Learning.

Stacy Prouty - October 23, 2022 at 03:15 PM

TD

“ I served with Bob on the Boards of Pierian Spring Academy and Suncoast Alliance for Lifelong Learning. He was a good man who always had a positive attitude. He accomplished much in his lifetime as a Professor at the University of Vermont and as Pres. of PSA and SCALL. We would meet for breakfast and discuss the direction of Lifelong Learning in Sarasota and what results we were achieving mostly due to all of his efforts providing leadership for both Boards. I will miss him dearly. Tom Dietrich

Tom Dietrich - October 23, 2022 at 09:37 AM

JB

“ Seeing Bob while on one of my walks was a surprise and knowing he and Donna were living near us again caused us to get together after some years. We enjoyed remembering our time in Englewood as neighbors and then talking about our "new" life here in Sarasota. May he rest in peace. June and Stew Beyer

June Beyer - October 15, 2022 at 11:06 AM

LL

Thank you so much for sharing. Very much appreciated, Donna

Liz Lehmann-Carlson - October 22, 2022 at 09:20 AM

HB

I remember meeting Robert several years ago and the work that he did in Sarasota for the community. I am particularly pleased that his grave is right next to my husband Paul Joseph Byrnes' grave at the Sarasota National Cemetery. May they have some good conversations. Hope Byrnes

Hope Byrnes - September 29, 2023 at 09:20 AM

GK

“ I met Bob after my retirement, and his infectious enthusiasm led me to join the board of Pierian Spring Academy. After Pierian Spring merged with RCLLA/Olli, I subsequently followed him to the board of the Suncoast Alliance for Lifelong Learning. His passion and energy for education and community involvement were unbounded. I often said he was my role model for active aging. We frequently met for coffee at the local coffee shops to discuss life in general and work on solving the problems of the world. He was always the most enjoyable companion. The world has lost a bright light with Bob's passing. My deepest sympathies to his family and loved ones.
/Gene Kusekoski

Gene Kusekoski - October 14, 2022 at 11:51 AM



Thank you so very much for your condolences and we really enjoyed hearing of your shared experiences. Sincerely, Donna and Liz

Liz Lehmann-Carlson - October 22, 2022 at 09:31 AM