

It is with profound sadness that we announce the death of Robert Lee Beck on August 29, 2025. He passed away peacefully with his daughter, son and one of his granddaughters at his bedside in Santa Cruz, CA after a short illness.

Bob was born in Chicago, IL, on April 30, 1929, to Nathan Lee Beck and Estele Reitz Beck. His mother predeceased him at a very early age. His father married his loving stepmother, Maurine Young Beck in 1934.

He had a brother, William (Bill) J Beck of Northfield, Minn, who predeceased him; and two sisters, Judy Beck and Susan Hoff of Port Jefferson, NY.

After graduation from Thornton Township High School (IL), Bob joined Bill in Northfield. Bob graduated from Carleton College as a member of the Class of 1951 with a degree in history and three varsity letters in baseball. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he began his 35-year career teaching American History at Willow Glen High School in San Jose, CA, where he was recognized with national honors, including the opportunity to co-teach with then-Secretary of Education, William Bennett.

In 1956, Bob married Darlene Carolyn Miller in San Jose, CA, where they made their home and raised their family. Together they raised a daughter and a son: Nancy (Dave) Griffin of Davis, CA and Steve (Dot) of London, England. They have five granddaughters, Susanna Beck, Kathryn (Alex Barnett) Griffin, Lindsay (Will) Anderson-Beck, Jennifer (Don Rogness) Griffin and Amy (Aaron) Landrith, and four great-grandchildren.

Bob's and Darlene's family was their pride and joy. They created a loving, secure home and invested deeply in family relationships. Bob extended that care into relationships with others within the Pasatiempo Golf Club community and Dominican Oaks, the retirement community he moved to after Darlene died in October 2013.

In retirement, Bob continued to pursue his love of history, co-authoring the Alister MacKenzie Chronology, charting the life of the famous golf course architect whose masterpieces included Augusta National, Cypress Point and Pasatiempo Golf Club where Bob was a long-time member. This work created a foundational timeline of MacKenzie's work that has been crucial for historical research and provided guidance to golf course architects worldwide to this day. He also researched and recorded the life of US Amateur Champion golfer Marion Hollins who collaborated with MacKenzie to finance and develop Cypress Point and Pasatiempo in 1928-29. Bob's work laid the foundation for Hollins' posthumous induction into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2021.

Bob is survived by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as his two sisters.

Bob lived his life with unconditional kindness, grace, generosity, humor and a passion for learning. He will be forever missed by his family and friends.