



Robert N. Skalwold (Bob), age 92, passed away peacefully in the presence of his loved-ones on January 24, 2009. He was born in Ocean City, New Jersey on December 26, 1916, to Elise Bjerke and Hans Skalwold, both of Horten, Norway.

Bob grew up and attended public school in North Plainfield, New Jersey. He attended college at Georgia Tech, and received a degree in mechanical engineering in 1941 with a reserve commission. He was very proud of being part of the Georgia Tech Co-op program in which he was journeyman railroad machinist. At the beginning of World War II, he volunteered for foreign duty and was assigned to the Army's Ordnance Department at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He was present at Wheeler Field during the attack on December 7th, and later received a commendation for his actions that day.

Following the war, Bob headed the Mechanical Engineering Support Section for Watson Laboratory in New Jersey and later followed the laboratory's move to Rome. In 1947, he married his first wife and they made their home in Rome where he was employed by RADC at Griffis Air Force Base. At RADC, he was one of the lead licensed professional engineers for the development of the North American Air Defense (NORAD) System, and later the Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS). He was a founding and charter member of the Rome American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He received 3 patents and had other inventions not processed.

After his first wife passed away in 1969, Bob was a single parent raising his three children alone. In 1974 he married Phyllis Loutzenhiser Bzura Skalwold, with whom he enjoyed a long and rich retirement traveling extensively throughout the world and enjoying time with their extended families. Bob made many contributions to the community in Rome. He was a charter member, founder and trustee of the Rome Academy of Sciences, served on the Board of Directors of the Jervis Library, former trustee of Rome Community Theater, a founding member of the Rome Brotherhood in Action, a former trustee and incorporator of One Parent Family Council, he served on the Board of Directors for the Inter-denominational Nursery School, and was a former trustee of the First Presbyterian Church. He was a passionate sailor and served as an instructor and Commander of the Rome/Utica U.S. Power Squadron for many years. Bob was also an active member of both the Scandinavian Club of the Mohawk Valley and the Erie Canal Wood Carvers. An avid birder and outdoorsman, he was also an accomplished nature photographer; he and Phyllis delighted many groups with slideshows on particular themes such as alpine flowers. He loved Upstate New York and was often heard to say "Don't we live in a beautiful part of the world?"

Bob will be most remembered as a kind and loving husband and father. He was pre-deceased by his first wife, Gladys McGaw, and his siblings Helen Jacob, Margot Mattox,

and Morton Skalwold. He is survived by his wife of nearly 35 years, Phyllis Skalwold; son Eric Skalwold and granddaughters Leta and Ella; son Jon Skalwold (Paula) and granddaughters Heather, Jennifer, Alexandra, and Hana; daughter Elise Skalwold (James) and grandson Kyle. His family circle included Phyllis' children: John Bzura (Jan) and granddaughter Robin, James Bzura (Vicki), Elizabeth Cooney (Gabe) and granddaughters Isabel and Emily, Richard Bzura, and Stanley Brothers (formerly Bzura, and his wife, Andrea) and grandson Jack.

The family offers a special thanks to the staff of the Rome Memorial Hospital for their special care for Bob. A memorial service will be held at the First Presbyterian Church at 108 W. Court Street in Rome on Saturday February 7th at 1:30 PM, with a reception at the Church to follow. Memorial donations in Bob's name may be made to: The Rome YMCA, 301 W. Bloomfield Street, Rome, NY 13440, or to The Jervis Library, 613 North Washington Street, Rome, NY 13440.