

Memorial Minute for Robert L. Broadbent

(1918-1989) -

Robert Livingston Broadbent, Beloved Member of Adelphi Friends Meeting in Maryland, died on March 5, 1989, at the age of 70, of leukemia.

Bob grew up in the Wilmington Monthly Meeting of Friends in Delaware and, as a young adult during World War II, took his stand as a conscientious objector. He performed Civilian Public Service in Patapsco Park, Maryland, for the National Parks Service, in Bellevue Mental Hospital, New York City, and at Mount Weather, Virginia, for the U.S. Weather Service. After the war he worked with the Co-operative movement in Greenbelt, Maryland, and became active with Young Friends at Irving Street Meeting and later at Florida Avenue Meeting, both in Washington, D.C.

In 1946, Bob married Ruth Wetherald, a birthright member of Irving Street Meeting. They made their home in Takoma Park. In 1955, Bob and Ruth were among the founders of Adelphi Meeting at its birthplace in College Park, Maryland. Bob served as Adelphi's first clerk.

Through the years we have appreciated Bob for his sound and thoughtful contributions to Meeting decisions and for his concerns for issues of peace and social order. He believed strongly in making public testimony to one's convictions, and was regularly a participant at public meetings and at non-violent demonstration where peace, civil rights, and social order issues were involved. Often by setting an example, sometimes by friendly persuasion, Bob was likely to convince others to join him in such witness. To children who grew up in Adelphi Meeting, Bob was the lovely man who was always ready with a playful response, be it a swing in the air, a wisecrack, or a fast game of frisbee. He was amazing on ice!

Bob is survived by his wife Beverley, whom he married in 1985. Ruth Wetherald Broadbent died in 1982. They are survived by son Richard and his wife Brenda and their daughter Jane, by son Philip and his wife Carol, and by daughter Bonnie Jeanne. Bob is also survived by his sisters, Dorothy Winter and Jeanne Harris.

We all have been truly blessed by his being among us.

Approved 6/11/89

Adelphi Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends