

Los Angeles Times

Robert H. "Bob" Ginsberg

1925 - 2018



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March 1, 1925 - July 10, 2018 Noted optical physicist Robert H. Ginsberg (Bob) passed away at age 93 in Los Angeles. Born in Grand Forks, N.D. to

Lithuanian Jewish immigrants Charles and Bertha Ginsberg, Bob enlisted in the Army Air Corps after high school and served as navigator of a B-24 Liberator bomber on missions in Southern Italy, Germany, and Austria. Discharged in 1946, he earned his B.A. degree in Physics from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, graduating in three years Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa, and his M.S. in Optics and Applied Optics at the University of Rochester, N.Y. in 1951. Bob's career in Optics began with Bausch and Lomb Optical Co., Rochester, followed by four years as a Research Associate at the Univ. of Rochester's Institute of Optics. His projects there included fabricating the special lenses for the new wide-angle Todd-AO movie process, whose first film was Oklahoma! Bob returned to Minneapolis as Optics Specialist for General Mills' Aerospace Division, where his most memorable project was as a technical director on the Atlas missile system. In 1963 Bob settled in Los Angeles, working 29 years as Senior Scientist for Hughes Aircraft Co. on hundreds of projects largely involving the U.S. space program. He served two terms as an officer of the Optical Society of Southern California. After retirement from Hughes, he continued for several years as Consultant for Raytheon and DRS. Bob was a legendary master problem-solver in his profession, a perfectionist, insatiably curious and outspoken. He is also remembered for his devotion to friends and family, his passion for photography, classical music and tennis, as well as his remarkable personal fitness, which gave him the appearance of someone decades his junior, especially on the dance floor. For his last 30 years, Bob lived at the Marina City Club in Marina del Rey, enjoying a community of friends and as a gifted self-taught pianist playing his arrangements of popular standards in the Club at dinner time. Bob is survived by seven nieces and nephews, twelve grandnieces/nephews, and seven great-grandnieces/nephews. He was predeceased by his siblings Sara Lee Edelstein, Bess Silvers, Belle May Stern, Nessa Kelberg, Albert Ginsberg and Bennett Ginsberg. At Bob's request, a public memorial will not be held. Memorial contributions may be made to the [charity of one's choice](#).

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8 entries

December 1, 2018

I am truly saddened at Bob's passing. He will be sorely missed.

Bob was an incredible teacher and mentor. I had the honor of working daily with him at Hughes for 25 years my first two years as his assistant. He did not just teach me what I did not know about optics but also how to be a better writer. I am 68 and semi-retired but I still have all of the hand drawn sketches that he did for me to illustrate different types of optical wave front distortion.

Joseph Ruhl

July 31, 2018

You stood for all that is good in this world Uncle Bob, lived an exemplary life filled with kindness, thoughtfulness, and perseverance, and gave friendship, love, and encouragement to the many of us who loved you and will love you always. Thank you Uncle Bob

Harvey Ginsberg

July 29, 2018

You were a great role model of optimism, friendliness, and diligence. We'll miss you, Uncle Bob

Alex Edelstein

July 28, 2018

I'm privileged to have known Bob since I was very young.

To know Bob was to respect and love him. He brought laughter, joy, and music to everyone around him.

Uncle Bob, you'll be greatly missed.

Mike Fisher

July 27, 2018

I'm deeply sorry to hear about the death of Robert. You have my deepest sympathy.

(Matthew 5:4)

C B

July 27, 2018

May the hope of seeing your dear loved one again in paradise, console the sorrow in your hearts. John 6:40

July 26, 2018

Bob was my great uncle. He was a warm and insightful advisor, and a canny observer of human nature. He touched a great many lives, always for the better. His character, and the example he set, were and always will be, an inspiration to me.

Josh Fisher

July 26, 2018

Bob brought light and joy to our lives. My late husband and I looked forward to Thursday evenings when we would go to the MCC restaurant to hear him play piano to a packed room. On his 85th birthday he poured everyone in the restaurant a glass of champagne. We toasted him then, and I toast him now. Here's to you, Bob Ginsberg! We shall miss your smiling face and warm presence.

Gloria Vando Hickok

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