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# Robert Rosenthal



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## Robert Rosenthal Obituary

Bob passed away peacefully in his Del Mar home on July 3 at the age of 91 surrounded by his loving family after a short illness and recent surgery. He lived his life with zest and style. He was often referred to as a Renaissance man and this is undoubtedly true. Bob was an architect by training, an artist, filmmaker, an entrepreneur, a wine enthusiast, grew his own fruits and vegetables, a classical music aficionado, an excellent cook, an avid swimmer who swam regularly into his late 80s, a diver who went on many exotic dive trips (always ending with a very interesting narrated short film documenting the trips), a tennis player, a writer of short stories and political commentary, and an inventor (he was working on a patent for a battery charging technology just last year).

First and foremost, Bob was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Bob and Sandy were married nearly 70 years. One of Bob's annual traditions was to take his son Brock and all his grandsons on an annual summer expedition which included safaris to Africa, dive trips, and fishing trips.

Bob was a giant and pioneer in the healthcare real estate industry. He started his career doing design work for Marshall Erdman in Madison, Wisconsin when the idea of a specialized professional medical building containing multiple physicians was first conceived. Bob moved to San Diego in the late 1960s and started a design business focusing on projects for physicians, and in 1971 founded the West Coast office of American Medical Buildings, which is the direct predecessor to Pacific Medical Buildings which was formed in 1988. Bob pioneered the strategy of using third-party capital to deliver on-campus medical office buildings to hospital clients so that they could preserve their own capital and use it for investment in their core businesses rather than in outpatient real estate. Bob was one of the very first to use the ground lease structure to accomplish this.

In the early-80s Bob took a short hiatus from the medical building industry to develop condominiums and hotels. One of Bob's projects is the Stratford Court condominiums at the foot of 4th St. in Del Mar. Bob was part of a hotel venture with Admiral "Bud" Zumwalt and colleague Jim Rohan and they were successful in landing multiple hotel RFPs including one that became the Hilton Torrey Pines adjacent to Torrey Pines golf course. Bob was president of PMB until he retired in February of 2007. During the span of his career, Bob developed over 110 medical buildings and today PMB has over a billion dollars of projects under development. In 2014 Bob was recognized with a "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the publication Healthcare Real Estate Insights.

For all his vision, intellect, work ethic, and exceptionally wide skill set and knowledge base, the most important thing about Bob was his character. He had the highest integrity, was widely respected by colleagues, and he always did the right thing. His incredibly optimistic outlook served him well in his various endeavors.

When Bob retired he rented an art studio in Solana Beach to pursue his dream of creating large-scale sculptures of colored dichroic glass and steel. These were kinetic with carefully designed movements that were mesmerizing as each piece of glass rotated and cast myriad colored reflections on

surrounding surfaces. One of the most interesting was designed within the framework of a large jet engine cowling. Another passion was creative writing. When he had trouble sleeping at night he would scribble ideas for stories, many based on daily tribulations or childhood memories; he was easily animated by current political events that led him to jot off a diatribe sent to friends and family. Bob is survived by his wife Sandy, son Brock Rosenthal of La Jolla, founder of Ocean Innovations (wife Alison Fleming), daughter Jill Duoto, founder of High Bluff Academy in Rancho Santa Fe (husband Michael), sister Jain Malkin healthcare designer and author, grandsons Nico, Bryan, and Bobby Duoto, Bryce and Jake Rosenthal and great grandson Nolan.

Donations in memory of Bob can be made to Scripps Institution of Oceanography:

<https://giveto.ucsd.edu/giving/home/gift-referral/155fb08c-b2de-4741-9c4f-b3a8953d6b9f/>

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## Memories and Condolences for Robert Rosenthal

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### 4 Entries

I'm very sad to hear of Bob's passing. He was a wonderful man. I feel lucky to have been able to get to know Bob at The Perfect Workout in Del Mar where we both worked out for several years. I always enjoyed talking to him about current political events and also reading and commenting on his opinion papers via email. I thought he should've run for office! He was an interesting, intelligent, and engaged person. He clearly had a deep love for his wife Sandy and family. I loved hearing about his numerous travel adventures with his grandsons. Bob will be greatly missed. He was a great man. RIP, Bob. Vicky Gallagher

**Vicky Gallagher**

Friend

July 26, 2023



# CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST

## Minnesota

**Lauryn Duoto**

July 25, 2023

I have nothing but great memories of Bob are used to live in Solana Beach at Seascape shore, condominiums and met him many times. He also purchased a lithograph of the New York Guggenheim museum from me. May he rest in peace he was a fantastic human being. Regards, justin coopersmith and family.



My father was a well-respected businessman and accomplished so much in his long career, but his greatest accomplishment to me was as a father, grandfather and great grandfather. Bob always made time for his family. My parents hosted extravagant parties for every birthday and holiday. In the late 1970's, my father, brother and I got scuba certified in Hawaii. Since then, we had annual trips to Hawaii with our families, which always included diving. Bob was an excellent underwater photographer and videographer. He surfed until he broke some ribs and my mom made him stop. He taught all of his grandsons to fish and took them on annual fishing trips to Alaska. He once took them all to Africa on safari. In the 80's he bought us windsurfers and we spent weekends sailing on Mission Bay. For years, he never missed competing in the La Jolla Roughwater Swim. We cycled together through Carmel Valley when it was just open farmland. He trained for a triathlon in his 70's. We went rollerblading along Mission Bay until he fell and ended up in the emergency room. For years, we went out lobster trapping on opening day of the season. Besides creating all these great memories, the most valuable gift he gave me was confidence. Growing up, he always believed in my intelligence and capabilities. He made me feel like I

could accomplish anything I put my mind to. When La Jolla High called him to tell him that I was ditching school on a regular basis, he didn't get mad. He just assumed that I must be bored and he called my counselor and changed my classes to all honors. I don't remember my father every getting angry at me or punishing me. He always reasoned with us in his calm and rational way. He instilled a love of reading and intellectual pursuits. He took me to symphonies, art galleries and museums. Our house was filled with books and classical music. Bob was the greatest role model for an active life of both mind and body, intellect and adventure. He was a risk taker and a gracious loser. I am so grateful that my three children had the opportunity to know my father. His influence will be felt for generations to come.

**Jill Duoto**  
Family

July 23, 2023

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## Memorial Events for Robert Rosenthal

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