



Charley Robbins

October 9, 1920 - May 24, 2010



Sarah Robbins

March 16, 1925 - October 19, 2009

Charley grew up in Iowa City, Iowa. He went to Harvard majoring in American history, and received his BS in 1942. He then spent four years in the Army during WWII, ending up in the battle of Okinawa and was among the first troops to enter Korea in 1945 when peace was declared.

After the war Charley went to Stanford for a second BS in Mechanical Engineering. That's where he met Sarah, at a dorm dance, and they were married in 1947. After working for GE at Hanford, Washington he returned to Stanford to earn a Masters in 1951. Except for four years in Los Angeles at Atomics International, the rest of his career was with GE in San Jose, where he retired in 1980.

Charley was one of the pioneers in nuclear power and his teams developed key features of GE boiling water reactors: internal steam separation, reactor containment and the world's most efficient jet pumps. While he was working, he became active in Saratoga city politics. He was president of the Saratoga Good Government Group several times, was elected and served six years on the Saratoga City Council and was Mayor for two of those years. He was an avid golfer since the age of 13, has been active in numerous club, enjoys bridge, jazz and classical music, and loves to read.

Sarah was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, and after two years at the University of Nebraska, she went to Stanford, graduating in 1947 in Latin American studies. She and Charley built their home in Saratoga 48 years ago and raised three daughters. They now have seven grandsons and one great granddaughter.

Sarah enjoyed tennis golf, swimming and bridge. She was active in many community organizations involving her children, as well as the Saratoga Library and Villa Montalvo. She and Charley have enjoyed many travels: Egypt, Indonesia, China, Russia are some that stand out in their memories.