



Dr. Robert John "Bob" Toler

September 17, 1926 - February 2, 2022

Dr. Robert John (Bob) Toler, of Tyler, TX, passed away after a life well-lived at the age of 95, on February 2, 2022, in Tyler. Dr. Toler was born on September 17, 1926, in Kirksville, MO, to Dr. Robert Vance Toler and Lucille White Toler.

He was raised in Shawnee, OK, attending high school there, lettering in football, track and tennis, where he was a member of the Oklahoma Junior Davis Cup Team. He graduated from Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, MO, in 1944, lettering in basketball and football as an all-conference halfback on the 1943 National Championship Junior College team. He attended the University of Tulsa, where he was an Alpha Tau Omega. Just before leaving for WWII, he played in the 1945 Orange Bowl when the Golden Hurricanes won the National Championship.

As a sergeant in the war, he was based on Okinawa, as a B-29 Flight Engineer and Instructor in the 33rd Bomber Squadron, 20th Air Force. While not his favorite subject, he was replete with fascinating war stories to the end.

After the war, Dr. Toler completed his pre-med studies at Oklahoma Baptist University and the University of Oklahoma, following a career path in medicine set by his father. He married Laura Jean Willis of Ridgely, TN, on September 25, 1948. In 1953, he graduated from the University of Kansas City, College of Osteopathic Medicine. In Shawnee, Dr. Toler practiced medicine, surgery and

obstetrics at Toler Hospital and Clinic, which his father had established. In 1966, he assumed the practice of his late, dearest friend, Dr. Paul Graham, in Ft. Worth, TX, before joining the Texas Department of Mental Health as a staff physician in 1978. He retired in 1989, but kept his medical license and continuing education current through 2019. He was a member of the Tarrant and Limestone County medical societies, and held the Physician's Recognition Award from the AMA for post graduate medical education each year. He looked forward to attending Grand Rounds at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Tyler every Friday.

Dr. Toler and his wife loved spending their retirement summers in Bayfield, CO, and winters in Yuma, AZ. Ever the athlete, he was an avid tennis player, golfer, boater, fisherman, and had also been a private pilot, scuba diver, and was an excellent cook. He held a keen interest in history, government, and the cosmos, always seeking man's origins, evolution, and ultimate destiny. Remaining sharp to the end providing medical and life advice, he always maintained, "I am the captain of my fate; I am the master of my soul."

He was preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, Laura Jean Toler, and his grandson, CJ Morgan.

He is survived by his daughter, Tara Shelton (Mark) of Tolar; son, Vance (Debbie) of Keller; grandchildren, Walker Shelton, Hunter Shelton, and Sydney Toler. Stewart Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements, with burial in Rose Hill Cemetery. Per his wishes, no services will be held. Instead, he wanted to convey how profoundly grateful he was to all who so thoroughly enriched his long and abundant life. "It's been a great ride."

Tribute Wall



“ It was my pleasure to work with Dr. Toler when he was with T.D.M.H.M.R. He was one of the brightest doctors to ever work at the facility. Honest to a fault, he could be counted on to tell you exactly what he thought. I admired him greatly.

Jim Parks - March 30, 2022 at 04:56 PM



“ I lived around the corner from RJ and met him one day while we both were walking our fur babies. I would stop and talk when he was at his mailbox or anytime I saw him out. He was absolutely the sweetest and wisest man. He told me how proud he was of his family and all about his adventures he and his late wife would enjoy so much. He loved life and felt he had lived it out. I am a better person for knowing him! God Bless him and his family!
Tona

Tona McCullough - February 14, 2022 at 02:53 PM



“ I knew Dr. Bob Through Jimmie McFarland who he lived on the corner. He was such a wonderful sweet man.. I know he is at peace and with his wife in heaven. My prayers go out to the family.

Dee Arcenaux

Dee Arcenaux - February 10, 2022 at 10:16 AM

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“ I am forever grateful to have known Bob Toler. He always had words of wisdom and kindness for me. I will miss all the entertaining stories from his past and his great life advice. He was an incredibly knowledgeable person and truly loved learning. I will never forget him and his beloved dog Sandy. I am also extremely thankful to have met his wonderful daughter Tara who is such a kind hearted person. I am a better person for having had them in my life.

Love,
Keisha

Keisha Swanson - February 09, 2022 at 12:38 PM

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“ What a beautiful obituary!! I wish I could have known him. He was a great friend to my daughter, Keisha Sparkman Swanson. She looked forward to her every other Sunday with him. I know that he will be greatly missed by all that we're lucky enough to know him.. You WERE the master of your fate dear man 😊

Nancy Sparkman - February 09, 2022 at 11:50 AM