



## Robert I. Steckel, Jr.

January 8, 2023

Robert I. Steckel, Jr., 90, of South Whitehall Township, passed away January 8, 2023 holding the hand of his high school sweetheart and wife of 71 years, Elsie (Jessen). Bob (“Red”) was born in Easton, PA., the son of Robert I. and Ethelyn (Bachman) Steckel, Sr. He graduated from Phillipsburg High School, class of 1949. Bob served in the US Air Force during the Korean War, earning the rank of Staff Sergeant. He received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Business Administration from Lafayette College and Lehigh University, respectively. In 1963 he started a 34-year career at Air Products and Chemicals, retiring in 1996 as Manager of Corporate Accounting.

Bob was a man devoted to his family and church. His primary concern until his final day was the well-being of his wife and children. He was a 60-year dedicated member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. He and Elsie also supported many animal welfare organizations, serving as board members of Lehigh Valley Animal Rights Coalition where they ran the Spay/Neuter Program for many years.

Bob enjoyed watching sports and always started the morning paper with the sports page. A life-long Dodger fan, he also gave his emotional support to the Green Bay Packers after they signed his high school basketball teammate, Jim Ringo, to their roster. For the past 60 years, he and Elsie have been faithful supporters of Parkland High School athletics, attending most football and basketball games into their late eighties.

Survivors: Wife; sons Robert J. Steckel, Sr. and his wife Donna of North Whitehall Township, and David B. Steckel and his wife Claudia of Allentown; daughter Christine M. Decker of Allentown; sister Barbara M. Etheridge of Phillipsburg; brother James Steckel of The Villages, FL; five Grandchildren and six Great-Grandchildren.

Services will be private at the convenience of the family.

Donations in memory of Bob Steckel can be made to the Smile Foundation ([www.operationnsmile.org](http://www.operationnsmile.org)).



# Tribute Wall

JK

“ *Elsie and family,  
I worked with Bob for many years at Air Products. He always was a dedicated and very professional employee. He also had a great sense of humor and was admired by his employees and managers. He was a very ethical person and I always knew whatever Bob did it was correct and in accordance with the highest level of professional standards. To say he was a dedicated Dodgers fan is an understatement. He was a very pleasant person and it was a pleasure to work with him. I have nothing but pleasant memories of Bob and I have thought of him often over the years after he retired. I also know he loved his family very much and I know they will miss him but please keep in your hearts and minds all the years of great memories.  
You are in my thoughts and prayers.  
Jim Knepp*

James Knepp - February 03, 2023 at 05:10 PM

AC

“ *Albert L Crilley lit a candle in memory of Robert I. Steckel, Jr.*



Albert L Crilley - January 12, 2023 at 07:45 AM

DE

“ *1 file added to the album Photos*



Dee - January 11, 2023 at 03:46 PM

NS

*I never met my great uncle Bob but he was a great man like his brother James Steckel my grandfather and his son Jim Steckel my father. My condolences for your loss and now you're wife's loss too. God bless*

Nicole steckel - December 28, 2024 at 06:00 AM