

Robert Glenn Crosen, Blue Hill

As of February 5, 2024, Robert Glenn (Bob) Crosen is happy to be home at Parker Ridge celebrating the start of his 93rd year in a life full of blessings.

A gentleman ever young at heart, he is loved by his family and many close friends for his positive outlook, thoughtful participation, generosity, and good company. His appreciative spirit shines in his light blue eyes, and his sweet smile brightens any conversation.

The son of Robert Glenn Crosen, Sr. and Gwendolyn Stevenson Crosen, he was born in 1931 in New York City, where with his mother he spent several months as a baby having corrective surgery for a club foot. As Robbie, Rob, then Bob, he and his mother (Gwen) would remain close through her 97 years, sharing an interest in writing, creative fun, and family history. The second of three children, in between older sister Mary Alice and Sarah Elizabeth (Sally) ten years younger, Bob grew up in Easton, Pennsylvania, where his father (Glenn) was a chemistry professor and Dean of Lafayette College. He had a happy boyhood in a neighborhood full of games and friendship, and as a teenager enjoyed going to college football games and stock-car races with his dad. He appreciated his father's interest in people and would follow his example in treating everyone with kindness and respect, no matter their station in life.

In 1935 his parents had the opportunity to buy a camp lot on Beech Hill Pond in Otis, Maine, where they hired two local men to build a cabin of hemlock and spruce cut from the property. From then on the family would spend summers at their camp in Maine, on one of Hancock County's most beautiful ponds. The Old Cabin, flanked by two neighboring cabins as the family grew, remains a beloved summer home and gathering place for generations of Crosens.

After graduating from Easton High School in 1949, Bob spent a year at Mercersburg Academy and then four years at the University of Maine in Orono, not far from Otis, majoring in business administration. One enchanted evening in 1952 he met Joyce Hancock, a recent graduate of Brown University (Pembroke College), at a grange hall dance in Mariaville. She was teaching high school English in Ellsworth, near her hometown of Hancock. It was love at first sight, and within a month they were engaged. As a young married couple they lived in Old Town during Bob's last year at the university, where he graduated in 1954, the year their daughter Jane was born.

After several years in the Philadelphia and Boston areas, the family, now with son Glenn (Robert Glenn Crosen III), settled in Cumberland Center, Maine, within easy commuting distance from Portland, where Bob worked as a bonding specialist, becoming vice president and director of Maine Bonding and Casualty Co. in Portland, which later merged with Fidelity & Deposit where he became Maine Branch Manager. A people person, he enjoyed working with colleagues and contractors, frequently making day or overnight trips around Maine and New Hampshire inspecting large construction projects which included, later in his career, the Parker Ridge retirement community in Blue Hill.

A caring, supportive husband, father, and grandpa, Bob discovered the joy of giving early on, following his parents' example of sharing for the satisfaction of helping loved ones—not just financially but emotionally, with steadfast encouragement and delight in his family's accomplishments. Always quick to anticipate and fill a need, Bob was forward thinking, fiscally prudent, and a careful steward of everything he had made, purchased, or been given--family heirlooms, collectibles, and other "treasures," always polished and in good repair. A skilled

woodworker, he greatly enjoyed designing, building, and decorating intricate wooden boxes, clocks, furniture, dollhouses, folk art, and whirlygigs as gifts for family members, and also as benefit items for an annual church fair.

Upon retirement from Fidelity & Deposit in 1991, Bob had more time to pursue fine woodworking along with restoring antique cars and traveling with Joyce, who never learned to drive but loved researching and planning trips. During their marriage they went on many grand adventures (both as a family and as empty-nesters) to Europe, the British Isles, across the United States and Canada.

Around 1996 Joyce began a long journey with dementia, with Bob as her devoted caregiver for 18 years until she died in 2013 a week before her 83rd birthday. With love, patience, and courage, Bob weathered the challenges of the long goodbye, including the isolation of caring for her at home (until her last two years at Sedgewood Commons in nearby Falmouth). Their love together was deep and pure, and he grew to love her most of all during this time of loss and dependence.

A year after Joyce's passing, he bravely downsized, sold their house in Cumberland, and in 2014 moved to Parker Ridge in Blue Hill (near daughter Jane in Penobscot and the family camp in Otis), finding a happy home as a member of the retirement community. During his next nine years at Parker Ridge he would join in many activities, share beautiful pecan pies baked in his cottage, fill sketchbooks with colorful artwork in the Still Life Drawing group, and write his memoirs in a collection of monthly essays as a member and leader of the community's Writing Group. He keeps mentally adept doing daily word puzzles.

A few years after settling in at Parker Ridge, he found new love with another resident, Claire Shaw, who soon became his sweetheart and companion, "the cherry on top of the sundae" of a life well lived. They both magically became 70 years younger, and their love and resilience are an inspiration to their family: daughter Jane Crosen Washburn (Richard) of Penobscot, Maine; son Glenn Crosen (Nancy) of West Chester, Pennsylvania; granddaughters Kelsey Crosen Osborne (Thomas) of Allentown, Pennsylvania; Megan Hallosen (Patrick) of Redding, Connecticut; Molly Crosen Stanley (Brian/Stan) of Oxford, Maine; great-granddaughters Fiona and Maeve; sister Sally Bonello of Little Silver, New Jersey; nieces Wendy Bonello, Betsy Smith (Matt), and Catie Filipelli (Anthony); Claire's daughters, Joyce Newkirk, Dale Champlin, Helen Burt, and Joni Brown; and many friends and neighbors in the Parker Ridge community.

Love and best wishes to this wonderful man enjoying his 93rd year!