

Obituary of Robert Henry Moore, Jr.

Robert Henry Moore, Jr., 97, of Breese, Illinois, lineal descendant of Captain James Moore of Abb's Valley, Virginia, Soldier of the Revolution, loosed his mortal coils and joined his parents, family, and friends in paradise on Tuesday, October 27, 2020. He succumbed to an untreatable condition called Old Age, having exhausted his allotted four score and ten.

A native of Bluefield W. VA, he was the son of Robert Henry Moore and Margaret St. Clair Moore of Bluefield who preceded him in death. He was pre-deceased by his brothers, Dr. George Walker St. Clair Moore and James Rutherford Moore and by his sister, Margaret Moore Ripley. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Judith Dressel Moore, and survived by children from a previous marriage; Diana Moore Haas and husband Eric, of Palmetto Florida, Robert Henry Moore III and wife, Lisa, of Seattle, Washington and Turner Cronin Moore of Sarasota, Florida who was unable to locate there the Fountain of Youth also sought by Ponce de Leon. He is survived by two grandchildren in Seattle, Elizabeth Moore Simpson and husband Josh, and Robert Henry Moore IV, children of Robert III and Lisa, and one great-grandchild Everest Moore Simpson, child of Elizabeth and Josh.

"Bob," as he was familiarly known, spent most of his career in the coal industry, being an officer and director of Virginia Smokeless Coal Company, The Jewell Ridge Coal Corporation, before its sale to The Pittston Company, and General and Managing Partner of Pocahontas Mining, LLC, now Pocahontas Resources LLC of Abingdon, Virginia. During those years, he was Vice Chairman and Director of the Virginia Coal Council and Director of The National Council of Coal Lessors. He retired from Pocahontas Mining Company in 1993. Early in his career, he was assistant to the president and treasurer of Otis & Company of Cleveland, Ohio. He was associated with the group that built The Aquarium of Niagara Falls, Niagara Falls, New York, of which he was president and The Mystic Marinelife Aquarium of Mystic, Connecticut, of which he was president. He was also president of Aquarium Systems, Inc of Eastlake, Ohio, an affiliated company that dealt with marine life. He was Chairman and Treasurer of Aqualife, Inc. of Marathon, Florida, a grossly unsuccessful venture. For a short time, he was Consultant/Director of the Carborundum Museum of Ceramics of Niagara Falls, New York.

He was a graduate of The McCallie School of Chattanooga, Tennessee, a military prep school, Washington & Lee University, The Harvard Business School, and earned a Juris Doctor Degree Cum Laude from the Cleveland-Marshall School of Law of Cleveland State University. He served in the Navy in World War II. He was Range Officer at the Anti-Aircraft Training and Test Center at Dam Neck, Virginia and Gunnery Officer on an LST in the Pacific Theater, was at the Okinawa Invasion during the Kamikaze Attacks where he was injured and spent a year in naval hospitals recovering. He was retired from the Navy in 1946 as Lieutenant Junior Grade.

He was the Director of the Pocahontas Coalfield Centennial Celebration of the Pocahontas Coalfield in 1983, Director of the Bluefield State College Foundation and a volunteer for a number of years for Prison Fellowship Ministries. A lifelong Presbyterian, he served in all the courts of the church as a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Bluefield. He held various offices and was a Ruling Elder. Mercifully, he was not in the choir, but now with his new voice he is in the glorious chorus around the Golden Throne. He was a life member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and The Military Order of the Stars and Bars. He was a member of the Union and Skating Clubs of Cleveland, Ohio, the Harvard Club of New York City, the Army and Navy Club of Washington DC, and The Commonwealth Club of Richmond, Virginia.

Services will be held in Spring 2021 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Bluefield, WV with interment at Maplewood Cemetery in Tazewell, Virginia. To be notified about the service, write to Turner C. Moore, 1034 Virginia Drive, Sarasota, FL 34234. Arrangements will be handled by the Mercer Funeral Home of Bluefield.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the Bible Study Fund, P.O. Box 543, Bluefield, WV 24701, an organization for the study of Bible in Bluefield and area public schools started by his mother and a dear friend in 1939, and to Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2005 Washington Street, Bluefield, WV 24701.