



Capt. Robert F. Cornwell

June 12, 1920 - February 10, 2005

Captain Robert F. Cornwell, age 84, of Grand Junction, passed away, Thursday, February 10, 2005 at Borgess Medical Center, Kalamazoo. Bob was born June 12, 1920 in Riverhead, New York and graduated from the New York Maritime Academy. He served as a Captain in the Merchant Marines during WWII and later travelled the world extensively, serving as a Captain for the Isthmian Ship Lines. Following his life at sea, Bob resided in Toledo, OH, where he managed stevedoring operations at the Toledo Overseas Terminal, later in the same capacity at Ceres, Inc., Chicago, IL. Never losing his love for water, he spent his senior years as teacher, salesman, and mentor for Michigan City Sail Boat Charters. Bob spent his golden years sailing, golfing, playing bridge and truly enjoying life. Surviving are his wife, Phyllis; a daughter, Janet (Adara) D'Riana of Whitefish, MT; a son, Raymond (Bonnie) Cornwell of Holland, OH; stepson, Peter Zorich of Kalamazoo; and two beloved grandchildren, Robert and Miranda of Holland, OH. He was preceded in death by a stepson, William Zorich. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM, Saturday, March 5, 2005, at the Grand Junction Congregational Church with Rev. Edith Winter officiating.

Previous Events

Service

MAR 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Congregational Church of Grand Junction
54128 CR 388
Grand Junction, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Bob is one of God's special people. He was a dear friend, mentor and inspiration to us. Jan and I will always cherish the memories of that trip around Lake Michigan. I remember when we first met Bob on the boat. Jan was a "bit" nervous about this ole captain. What a trip we had. We anchored in front of Navy Pier the night of the first Night Cubs game in a severe thunderstorm. First lesson was how to anchor out. We have since enjoyed anchoring out overnight in front of the Hancock and many other places. Then Bob gave us our next lesson. "Never skimp on your raingear" as one of our crew donned the see thru raincoat that he pulled from a little pouch. Next day we traveled all the way to Racine WI in dense fog. We found a stranded sailboat out on the water and towed them in. Next lesson learned, how to tie a harness and tow another boat. Cn't tell you how many times I've used that over the years. We arrived in Racine that night and had a great dinner. (discovered Racine and now keep our baot there). Departed for Grand Haven about 9 pm in fog. We never would have attempted that without the assurance of Captain Bob. Arrived in Grand Haven at sun up. I get chills up my spine as I write this. From Grand haven to Holland where we spent the night on the dock of the Macatawa yacht club. As we closed the bar that night we learned the next lesson, "A Swan Boat club member never leaves a bar until he's asked to". As we got shown the door. Then on to Saugatuck where we learned how to back into a stern line to force the bow of a boat into the wind. Then on to South Haven. After seeing this place we fell in love and kept our sailboat there for the first 6 years of it's life. Then off to St. Joe arriving at 3 am. We had one breath of air left in our hand held horn and had to awaken the bridge tender. Luckily it worked. Then back to Michigan City. "Goddammit" Captain Bob we're gonna miss you. You changed our lives with your wisdom and your friendship. God Bless you as you rest in peace and God bless that beautiful woman that you called your wife. May she be comforted and strengthened by Gods love and peace.

With all our love,

The Dobbs Family##imported-begin##Jim,Jan,Jimmy,Jordan, Jack and Haley Dobbs##imported-end##

February 15, 2005 at 11:18 AM



“ *I'll never forget the lessons that I learned from Bob, like how to fill ice trays 'to precisely the right level)', 'thinly' slice tomatoes, and 'individual' nacho chips. And of course the many adventures on the boat. Bob was a special person in my life. You are in my prayers.##imported-begin##Nan Brock##imported-end##*

February 15, 2005 at 10:20 AM



“ *My sincere condolences to the family. With each loss we learn how precious life truly is. Phyllis, I will keep you and Peter in my prayers. God Bless.##imported-begin##Roxanne M. Duane##imported-end##*

February 15, 2005 at 09:35 AM



“ *Capt. Robert F. Cornwell ,*

May God Bless You & Rest In Peace.

Love,

*Paula, Peter, Liz, Carolyn, Andrew &
Grandma Angeline Chorich*

XOXOXO##imported-begin##Chorich Family##imported-end##

February 14, 2005 at 03:19 PM



“ I met bob through Barb on the internet. I always enjoyed playing with him and looked for him often. I'll miss him.##imported-begin##Pam Gau##imported-end##

February 13, 2005 at 10:27 PM



“ You took me in from a Thanksgiving eve 2004 snow storm on my way to Chicago.
We spent a wonderful last evening together even with a power failure. Thank you and Phyllis for your love and generosity to me, Adara (Janet), Zachary and Jessica over the years.

With my love and respect,
Murray##imported-begin##Murray Gorchow##imported-end##

February 13, 2005 at 03:19 PM



“ Aunt Phyllis,
You couldn't have picked me a better Uncle. Thank You!##imported-begin##Cousin Jackie##imported-end##

February 12, 2005 at 02:59 PM