

Robert “Bob” W. Danielson

Obituaries

UT San Diego “Danielson, Robert Walter.” County Obituaries. [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) 11 May 2008. On-line.



ROBERT WALTER DANIELSON

Nov. 28, 1922-May 11, 2006

Robert Walter Danielson, 83, of La Mesa died May 11. He was born in Mason City, Iowa, and was an English professor at Grossmont College. He served in the Navy during World War II and was a member of First United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Nan Danielson; daughter, Cathie Simms of San Diego; son, James Danielson of San Diego; nine grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Services: 2 p.m. Tuesday, First United Methodist Church, 2111 Camino del Rio S., San Diego.

Inurnment: was planned.

Donations: Grossmont College Foundation, Attn.: Robert W. Danielson Scholarship Fund, 8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020.



Bob Danielson

Bob died on May 11 at Kindred Hospital in San Diego of complications from a fall and Parkinson's Disease. He was born in Mason City, Iowa on November 23, 1922. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Patricia “Nan” Danielson, children James Danielson and Cathie Simms of San Diego, eight grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

Bob flew Douglas R4D's and R5D's in the China-Burma-India theater as U. S. Navy Transport Plane Commander during World War II. Losses of airplanes and aviators flying over “the hump”, as the Himalayas were known, sometimes reached 50 per cent because of turbulent weather, planes flying at the limits of their performance at high altitudes and attacks by Japanese fighters. He also flew air-sea rescues in the famous San Diego- built amphibious PBV-5A's.

After the war ended, Bob Danielson enrolled at the University of Minnesota and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelor's degree in English in 1950. He later earned a Master's degree at San Diego State University. He taught English at Grossmont High School from 1956 to 1961. In the fall of 1961, he was chosen as the founding chair of the English Department at Grossmont College, where he taught literature and composition. Mr. Danielson was also the first chairman of the Pacific Coast Regional Conference on English in the Two Year College, and was a member of the National Council of Teachers of English Curriculum Commission. In June 1986, he retired and was honored as Professor Emeritus of English.

Former colleague Judy Barkley, now retired, remembers him as a very popular teacher whose classes remained high in enrollment to the end of each term, “Not because he was easy—he made them work.” She continued, “As chairperson, he was a mentor. When I was first hired, he saw that I was young and inexperienced, and I would go to him with questions about teaching.”

Bob was a longstanding member of First United Methodist Church in Mission Valley. The Reverend Mark Trotter, retired minister of First United Methodist Church remembers, “Bob Danielson was a dignified and humble man, a serious learner all his life. He delighted in knowledge. His first love was great literature because it illuminates the important questions of life. He would send me articles on things we had talked about. He was constantly investigating the world around him. He was a wonderful man who never stopped learning.”

The family suggests contributions to the Robert W. Danielson Scholarship, checks payable to Grossmont College Foundation, 8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020.

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