



Robert James Earickson

August 26, 1934 - February 11, 2026

Robert James Earickson, 91, of Glen Burnie, Maryland, passed away peacefully at home on February 11, 2026.

Born in Roswell, New Mexico, on August 26, 1934, Bob served as a photographer's mate in the U.S. Navy from 1954 to 1958. He went on to receive his BS and MA in geography from Arizona State University and his PhD from the University of Washington. Throughout his career he taught social, urban, and health geography, served on the editorial board of the journal *Social Science and Medicine*, acted as webmaster and advisor to the Health and Medical Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers, and authored two textbooks. He retired as associate professor emeritus from UMBC in 2000.

Loved by his family and friends, Bob was a kind, gentle soul who would go out of his way to help anyone in need. He was an avid reader, enjoying the books of John D. MacDonald, Robert Parker, and Tony Hillerman. Bob enjoyed family gatherings, dancing, taking exercise classes at the local senior center, making home improvements, and gardening. He was a devoted fan of Tiger Woods and the LA Dodgers.

Bob is survived by his wife of 34 years, Janet; his children, Elizabeth Adcox (the late Troy Adcox), Robert (Danielle), and Edward (Daisy); his ex-wife,

Mary (mother of Elizabeth, Robert, and Edward); and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to WETA or your local public broadcasting service.

Tribute Wall

EE

“ I remember Bob as a kind colleague who welcomed me to my new department in 2000 - just as he was retiring. His useful career advice has stuck with me - and I also operated out of the office he restructured with bookshelves galore - plenty of room to start a career. He will be missed.

Erle Ellis - February 20 at 12:07 PM

SW

“ So many memories of my dear BNL! He was a friend, a dance partner, and fellow lover of all things Janet! I will always fondly recall our days of dancing at Cancun Cantina, especially the El Paso and Two Broken Hearts. He was a kind heart, a loyal friend and a giver of talent and time. So many of his projects fill our home and help me to feel his presence every day. He will be with us on every hike at Ladew and Patapsco Park, in every family dinner, and in every lunch at Uno's. Kickup your heels and fly free, Bob!

Sandy Ward - February 17 at 03:01 PM

AM

“ Like Keith Harries, I knew Bob as a colleague at UMBC for many years. Although we were not as close as Keith and Bob were, I too knew him to be a kind, gentle person with a wry sense of humor who could make friends with just about anyone and could bring calm to any situation. He was well-respected as a scholar for his work in advancing the field of medical geography. He is also one among a very small group of people of whom I can say that I can't remember ever hearing him utter an unkind word about another person. It's been a long time since I've seen him and Janet and only heard from him on a few occasions since his retirement. It's evident that he had a big impact on the others in his life and will be much missed. May his memory be for a blessing.

Andy Miller - February 16 at 10:13 PM

PS

“ Bob was a dear friend and colleague. We first met in the late 1960's at the University of Chicago Department of Geography as fellow grad students. Not long after, in the early 1970's, we were briefly colleagues in the University of Hawaii Department of Geography, until we both went our separate ways, in Bob's case to the University of Maryland Baltimore Campus. During our time in Chicago and Honolulu our first wives Mary and Marion were also friends, which deepened our relationship. After that I only saw Bob three more times: in 1978, when we spent some quiet time on the UMBC campus; in 1987, when we toured the Baltimore inner harbor; and last in 2003 in Philadelphia, when his Janet and my Mollie also got to meet and the four of us did a walking tour of historic sites downtown. Bob and I always enjoyed sharing our experiences in Australia and having a silly giggle over British spelling. He will be sorely missed. My deepest condolences and love to you, Janet!
Paul Schwind, in Honolulu, Hawaii

Paul Schwind - February 15 at 08:05 PM

KH

“ I knew Bob as a colleague in the Department of Geography at UMBC. As anyone lucky enough to get to know him knew, he was a remarkably kind and gentle soul and it was a privilege to be his friend. About 35 years ago he and I developed a monthly habit of meeting for breakfast at the Double T diner in Catonsville, on our way to work. We maintained this after he retired but we shifted to the Double T in Glen Burnie, closer to his residence. Monthly became rather less than monthly but, joined by Janet, we kept going, with what turned out to be our last session recently. Bob had the useful virtue of being a very organized person. I attributed this, probably erroneously, to his experience in the navy as other navy alumni I had known also seemed to share the organization gene. I attributed this to the fact that on board ships crew are expected to live in a space about the size of a shoebox. Well, whether this is fact or fiction Bob was very organized and I envied him for it. It's not very often that a friendship results in regular good conversation accompanied by gloriously substantial, unhealthy, and reasonably priced meals. Thank you for that, Bob, and for all the other ways that constituted our friendship. You are sorely missed.

Keith Harries - February 15 at 02:53 PM

HJ

“ My favorite memories of "Doctor Bob" have always been his stunned reactions to the utter chaos that erupted all around him during family meals in our home when our four children and our shared mother-in-law filled our house with riotous laughter and foolishness. His expressions were subtle, but unmistakable. He clearly loved the experience, even if overwhelmed him at times. Over the years, Bob more than once came to our rescue again and again when his generous and kind gestures lifted us up when we needed it most. Bob's "projects" surround me now as I write this. He rebuilt our kitchen, and replaced our flooring and more things than we could ever hope to repay. The key here is he physically did it all for us and never ever asked for anything in return. In my life, "Doctor Bob" represents all the qualities that define what makes a true hero. My life is richer because he was a part of it.

Henry C. Ward Jr. - February 14 at 08:05 AM