Dr. Morton Murray Rosenberg

Apr. 22, 1917-Jan. 24, 2022

Dr. Morton Murray Rosenberg passed away Monday, Jan. 24, 2022, at the age of 104.

Born in NY, Morton was raised on a poultry farm in Tom’s River, New Jersey. He was the oldest child of David and Anna (née Kraemer) Rosenberg. He remained on the family farm until he enrolled at Rutgers University at the age of 17, the first in his family to attend college. In 1941, he was enrolled in a doctoral program at the University of Wisconsin Graduate School, but left school to enlist in the Navy out of a sense of duty one day after the Pearl Harbor attack. Morton spent the next four years serving his country and touring the Pacific where he developed a lifelong love and respect for the water, before returning to his graduate studies. Upon completing his doctoral work he accepted a position at the University of Hawaii, where he later served as Dean for 17 years.

Morton married Shirley Sugerman, July 24, 1970, two days after a blind date in Washington State. Morton and Shirley made a home in Hawaii before settling in New Jersey in 1972, where they remained faithfully devoted to each other for 50 years until her death in 2020.

When not living at their homes in New Jersey, the Bahamas and Martha’s Vineyard, Morton and Shirley lived an adventurous life traveling the world, and were active in their communities, always surrounded by loving friends and family.

Morton was a lover of the arts, and dedicated himself to a life of service, particularly to his family. He kept his mind sharp by engaging in current world affairs, playing the stock market, and had recently taken up cryptocurrency. A hardworking farm boy and Army man until the very end, he stayed active adhering to a strict routine filled with daily chores. He loved his family, his morning coffee, his hydrangeas, and staying connected to his community by hosting various get togethers.

Morton will always be remembered as a seaman, a master of toasts and storytelling, for his unbridled smile and inquisitive mind, and his penchant for singing. He lived with honor, dignity and strength from beginning to end; he will be deeply missed and forever in our hearts.

Predeceased by his wife, Shirley, and sisters Irene Shapiro and Rosalyn Copleman , Morton is survived by his daughter Madeline Jepson, and step-children, Carol Reck, Andrew and Joan Sugerman; his grandchildren and their spouses, and his great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, if you would like to honor Morton’s memory through charity, the family requests you direct your generosity to Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, Ocean Conservancy, or any organization that is meaningful to you.