



Robert E. Allen

Retired Chairman & Executive Officer of AT&T

At the age of 81, Robert E. Allen, resident of Convent Station, N.J., and Village of Golf, Fla., passed away peacefully on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016, at the age of 81. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the memorial visitation on Thursday, Sept. 15, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Paul Ippolito Summit Memorial, 7 Summit Ave., Summit, N.J.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, Sept. 16, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. at the Central Presbyterian Church, 70 Maple St., Summit, N.J. For additional information and to send condolences, please visit ippolitofuneralhomes.com.

Born in Joplin, Mo., to Walter and Louise Allen, Bob grew up in New Castle, Ind., where he learned much about business, employees, and communities from the industrial town. He delivered newspapers at the age of eight, and also worked as a corn detassler, mechanic, surveyor, lifeguard, railroad track worker and carpenter's assistant before attending Wabash College.

At Wabash, Bob was a varsity athlete on the college's football and basketball teams, a leader in the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, and studied political science and economics. He

and his wife, Betty, were married in 1956. Mr. Allen joined Indiana Bell upon graduation in 1957, and quickly rose up through the ranks.

By 1972, Bob was elected vice president and secretary of Indiana Bell. Bob, Betty and their five children moved around a great deal as he assumed various leadership roles including, vice president and chief operating officer of Illinois Bell, vice president of business services at AT&T, and five years later chairman of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Companies.

In 1983, Bob became executive vice president and chief financial officer at AT&T. Three years later, in 1986, he was named president of AT&T. Mr. Allen was elected chairman and chief executive officer of AT&T in 1988, and held that position until his retirement in 1998.

In addition to his role as chairman of AT&T, Bob's business acumen led him to be a highly sought-after board member. Bob served on the board of directors for Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, PepsiCo, New American Schools Corporation, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and the United Way of America.

Throughout his career, Bob received scores of awards and accolades, including honorary doctorates from the University of Notre Dame, Ball State University, and Pace University's Leader in Management Award, among many others. In 1976, he was elected to the Wabash College Board of Trustees where he served actively until 2003, and has served as an Emeritus trustee since.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Elizabeth "Betty" Allen (nee Pfeffer); loving children, Jay, Katherine, Ann and Amy Allen; daughters-in-law, Susan and Anna Allen; his 11 cherished grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Bob was predeceased by his son, Daniel Allen in 2015. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Bob's memory to Wabash College, P.O. Box 352, Crawfordsville, Ind. 47933.

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