



Robert Wales Heywood

July 18, 1933 - October 11, 2023

Robert Wales Heywood, age 90, of St. Ignace, Michigan, died at home surrounded by loved ones, on October 11, 2023. He was born in Cohasset, Massachusetts, on July 18, 1933, to Hervey Wales and Sarah Eleanor (Teasdale) Heywood.

Robert received his bachelor's at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and received his master's and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in Urbana, Illinois. He worked as a professor of history at Kent State University, the University of South Florida and the University of Michigan-Flint where he met Irene K. Olson Roach. They married on May 25, 1978, in Flint, Michigan. He worked at the University of Michigan-Flint for twenty-four years before retiring in 1994. He and his wife moved to St. Ignace where they spent their peaceful retirement along the shores of the Great Lakes.

Robert served as the academic dean, and four-time chair of the history department. He was also named Professor Emeritus.

Robert was a lifelong learner and reader. He enjoyed sailing, traveling, camping, and spending time at the family's cabin.

Robert is survived by his beloved wife of forty-six years, Irene; children, Deborah (Scott) Montgomery of Plymouth, Michigan, David of Honolulu,

Hawaii, and Sarah (Brian) Gorner of Lakewood, Colorado; stepchildren, David Roach of Flint, Lori (Neil Ackles) Roach of St. Ignace, and Sandra (James Rogers) Roach of Hubert, North Carolina; grandchildren, Jessica, David, Kelsey, Andrew, Patrick, Laura, Ian, Reed, and Wyatt; six great grandchildren; his companion dog, Benjamin and the memories of many beloved dogs.

No services are planned at this time.

Memorial Contributions can be made out to St. Ignace United Methodist Church, 615 US-2 W., St. Ignace, Michigan 49781 or the Mackinac Animal Aid Association, P.O. Box 71, St. Ignace, Michigan 49781.

Family Life Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

Condolences may be left to the family at www.galerfuneralhomes.com.