

Roger Everett Allen

STURBRIDGE — Roger E. Allen was born in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts on June 3, 1914. His parents were Lee (Clifford) Allen and Alice (Carlson) Allen. As a boy growing up in Shrewsbury, Roger was interested in plants and animals - an interest that he maintained throughout his life. Roger graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Tufts Medical School. He completed his medical residency at Hahnemann Hospital in Worcester where he met his future wife of 63 years, Olive (Guerin) Allen who was training as an RN.

During World War II, Roger served as a Captain in the Army's First Armored Division in North Africa and Italy. At the end of the War, he was present for the blessing of the troops by the Pope at the Vatican - an event which was very special to him.

After returning home, Roger accepted the position of Medical Director for the American Optical Company in Southbridge, Massachusetts. Roger made many friends there during his 40 years of service. He was extremely proud of his time at AO and considered it one of his life's achievements.

After retiring, Roger pursued his love of the Circus. He was a long-standing member of the Circus Fans of America. He traveled throughout the United States, Russia and China visiting famous and not-so-famous circuses. He accumulated more than 80 years of unique circus memorabilia and stories.

In addition to his wife, Roger leaves a sister, Caroline Swenson; two sisters-in-law; a number of nieces, nephews and great nephews. He died peacefully at Overlook Healthcare Center in Charlton, MA on Sunday, May 3, 2009 at the age of 93. His family will greatly miss his gentle manner and positive outlook. The family wishes to thank the staff at Overlook who took wonderful care of Roger during his final days.

Funeral services will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Roger's name to the worldwildlife.org. Howard C. Allen Funeral Home, 653 Main St., Shrewsbury is handling arrangements.