Robert Cote, 91

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla./PROVINCETOWN—Robert “Bob” Cote, of St. Petersburg, Fla., and Provincetown, passed away on Dec. 28, at the age of 91.

Born in Southbridge in 1924, he was the definition of a family man. Most devoted husband of Victoria (Vecchia) Cote, who passed away in 2006, Bob always kept her photo by his side. They fell in love at a skating rink when they were in their teens, married and had a beautiful family which meant the world to them: daughters Susan, Kathleen and Barbara; son Kenneth, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Bob served in World War II in Iran, and returned to Massachusetts to serve for more than 40 years as an oculist, creating and implanting artificial eyes, for American Optical. Many of his patients continued to correspond with Bob, grateful for his gentle care.

An avid walker, he proudly walked for miles every day until illness prevented him from doing so. He split his time between St. Petersburg and Provincetown, and was loved by his community of family and friends in both places.

He will be buried with his beloved Victoria at St Mary’s in Southbridge, and a service will be held for him there sometime this summer. Gifts in Bob’s memory will be gratefully accepted by the Suncoast Hospice Foundation, 5771 Roosevelt Blvd., Clearwater, FL 33760.