

## **Remembering Robert Cookson, NorCal and USTA President**

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Robert A. Cookson Passed away peacefully on December 16 after a lengthy illness. He was 86. Bob was born in San Francisco, CA on March 4, 1922 to Dorothy and Harold W. Cookson. He was predeceased by his older brother, Harold. He attended Galileo High School and Stanford University before entering the U.S. Army in 1943. He was a member of the 89th Infantry Division and served in the European theater of action during World War II. Following the end of the war, Bob joined the family business manufacturing industrial doors in San Francisco and worked for The Cookson Company until his retirement in 1985.

Bob will best be remembered for his involvement with tennis. He was a 50-year member of the Peninsula Tennis Club in Burlingame where he served on the Board and as president for several terms. This led to his becoming involved in the Northern California Tennis Association, also serving as its president before being elevated to the board of the United States Tennis Association. Bob served as president of the USTA in 1991-1992 and was also a member and vice president of the International Tennis Federation Committee of Management. Bob was most proud of establishing the first U.S. Open Project with the purpose of developing plans for the expansion of the USTA National Tennis Center and the construction of the Arthur Ashe Stadium, site of the present day U.S. Open. He also appointed the first USTA Minority Participation Committee to facilitate increased participation of minority volunteers and players in the USTA and its programs. A passionate advocate of the sport and a long-time volunteer, Bob received the International Tennis Hall of Fame's Samuel Hardy Award in 1994, presented to a USTA volunteer in recognition of long and outstanding service to tennis. Bob is enshrined in the Northern California Tennis Hall of Fame. He was a man of good humor and great vision whose contribution to the sport of tennis and the United States Tennis Association have left an indelible mark. He will be greatly missed.

Bob was a member of the Bohemian Club and served on its Board of Directors; he also served on the Board of Directors of the American Rolling Door Institute. Bob is survived by his wife of 62 years Elizabeth (Betty); three sons: Bob (Colleen), Jim (Alison), and Richard (Deborah); nine grandchildren: Jennifer (Chris Shaffner), Lindsay, Ted (Cindy), Brian, Sean, Natalie, Corinne Cookson, Cathleen and Det Beal; his brother, David Cookson; his cousins, Stacy and Henry Mettier and many nieces and nephews. A celebration of Bob's life will be held sometime in January. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the charity of ones choice.