



THE HISTORY OF MAINE IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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Chapter FORTY-SIX: State Advocate Emeritus & Honorary P.S.D. Robert C. Robinson, Sr.Falmouth, ME

Robert C. Robinson was born and grew up in Portland, Maine. He was the second of five children. He had strong Irish Catholic roots. He graduated from Portland High School in the late 1930s. In his early years, he worked at a bowling alley on Peaks Island and at George C. Shaw's grocery store. Later he entered Boston College and later Boston College Law School. He graduated from Boston College Law School, LLB, JD. During World War II, Bob served with the 188 Engr. Combat Battalion in the European Theater from 1943 to 1946. After the war, he studied economics at Boston College. He remained in Boston and earned his law degree from BC in 1952.

Lucille was a second-generation Italian who grew up in Manhattan and Brooklyn, New York, during the Great Depression. She attended Long Island College Hospital School of Nursing. She then joined the Navy during World War II and treated wounded soldiers at Camp Lejuene in North Carolina.

The love story between Robert and Lucille A. Frenza Robinson began at a party at Boston College during Lent in 1951. Robert Robinson was studying law at Boston College and Lucille, a 1950 graduate of Boston College, was on the nursing faculty and pursuing her Master's degree in nursing. At the party, she asked where Mass was being held and Bob promptly recited the schedule. "I made her head turn," recalled their daughter, Maryann Robinson of Marblehead, Massachusetts. "She was very impressed by that. He noticed her. She was beautiful."





In 1952 they married and moved to Portland. He founded a law firm with his brother on Exchange Street. She became director of clinical instruction at the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing. In 1956, she gave up her nursing career to stay home and raise their children. When her children were grown, she resumed her nursing career part time.

Robert Robinson had a successful 50 year career as a lawyer. In the mid-1960s, he co-founded the law firm of Robinson, Kriger & McCallum, PA of Portland. He retired in 2002 at age 81. He has practiced before all the levels of Maine's court system, the U.S. District Courts, First Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.

Bob has served as General Counsel for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Portland for many years. He also served as a member, director, president of many boards and commissions in the greater Portland area.

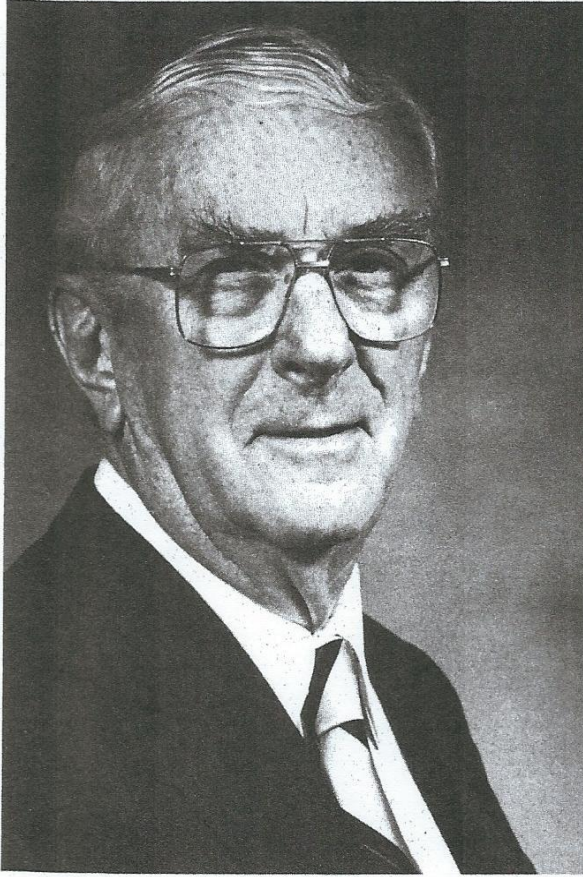
Pope Paul VI honored Bob by investing him as a member of the Order of St. Gregory the Great.

Robert C. Robinson joined the Knights of Columbus in 1953. He became State Advocate in 1958 during S.K. Wallace A. Bilodeau's term as State Deputy, a post he has held for 39 years, a record unmatched in any state jurisdiction in the entire country. He served as State Advocate to 23 State Deputies and was regarded by each as a very trusted and gifted advisor. Many Past State Deputies have given examples of the service and support offered by Robert C. Robinson.

One PSD recalled a chicken barbeque in Winslow sponsored by the Winslow council that involved a young girl being seriously burned on the remains of the barbeque charcoal left on the ground to cool. Her injuries were serious and a possible law suit was discussed involving the parish, KC council, Diocese of Portland and even the Supreme Council. This potential problem was relayed from Robert C. to the then State Deputy. After considerable discussion, a resolution to the dilemma was found without legal proceedings and the young girl was supported during her healing period. A potential major problem was resolved with the support and counsel of the State Advocate.

Anyone who attended a State Convention can recall a situation that arose in which a dispute or question from the floor became a dispute or debate. In each case the current State Deputy looked over at Robert C. and the issue was quickly and effectively resolved. That was the power and authority of the long term State Advocate. He could talk for long periods of time on almost any subject. His ability to speak effectively on legal and parliamentary subjects allowed the State Deputy to continue with his agenda and continue his convention plan.

The state of Maine has lost a truly exceptional state officer and a true friend. May his memory keep us focused on the good that we do and the potential that we hope to fulfill. God Bless you Robert C. Robinson. Rest in Peace. VIVAT JESUS



Robert C. Robinson, Esq.
State Advocate
Maine State Council, Knights of Columbus
Honoree

Their love lasted more than 60 years, during which time they raised four children, had successful careers and endured personal tragedies. They walked hand in hand through it all – until the end.

On March 23, 2016, the Robinsons were placed under hospice care at Foreside Harbor in Falmouth.

Robert Robinson died peacefully early Wednesday at the age of 95. His wife was sleeping in a bed beside him. Just over six hours later, she died at age 93.

“We were amazed by the synchronicity of it,” said Michael Robinson of his parents passing. “We knew they were close to the end but no one thought they would pass within hours of each other. As difficult as it is, it’s exactly what they would have wanted. As hard as it is to lose both of your parents within hours, it’s the perfect ending to their lives.”