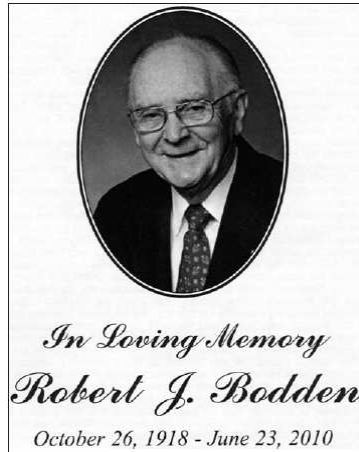




## WBA Executive Director 1982-1988



Robert J. Bodden, our loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather, 91, of Platteville, was called home to the Lord, Wednesday, June 23, 2010, in Platteville.

Bob was born on Oct. 26, 1918, in Milwaukee, son of Dr. A.M. and Mae (Riley) Bodden. He married Mary E. Winter on May 30, 1941, at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Milwaukee; she preceded him in death in 1997. Their marriage of 56 years was blessed with 10 children, Jerome (Sue) Bodden, of Lewiston, Idaho, Mary Michor, of Thiensville, Jane (Paul) Loiselle, of Southfield, Mich., Alice (Don) Engling, of Whitewater, Virginia (Fred) Koeller, of Potosi, John (Terri) Bodden, of Kimberly, Idaho, Joseph (Jackie) Bodden, of Platteville, Elizabeth (Robert) Tarrell, of Madison, and Kathryn Anne Bodden, deceased.

Bob's broadcast career of 67 years began in 1943 as a staff announcer at WKBH, La Crosse. He was instrumental in establishing three Wisconsin radio stations -- WRCO, Richland Center in 1949, WSWW, Platteville, in 1955, and WMIR, Lake Geneva, in 1964. He owned and managed the Platteville station for 30 years, and was then named executive director of the radio and TV stations for the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association.

He was best known to many thousands of listeners for several successful programs that he created, including Uncle Bob's Kiddie Hour, Coffee Break with Mary & Bob, Scrapbook Time, and Thoughts From An Old Friend. In addition, he was very active as a news editor, and wrote and aired the station's radiotorials.

Bob was a strong believer in volunteering his services for worthy church, civic, and state organizations. An active member of St. Mary's parish, he served as an usher, lector and lay distributor and served many years on the parish council. He served as president of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference and was an active 3rd and 4th Degree Knight of Columbus. He served as KC state treasurer from 1956 to 1960 and state deputy from 1960 to 1962. He also served many years on the Platteville Chamber board of directors, the Grant County Board of Supervisors, the United Way board of directors; the Southwest Health Center's board of directors and it's foundation board, the American Cancer Society; the Southwest Vo Tech College Foundation board, the Platteville Kiwanis Club; the Southwest Vocations Club; and the National Associated Press Radio/TV News Directors Association. He was honored by many organizations for his dedicated service to others.

The Platteville Chamber of Commerce named him the first recipient of its Lifetime Service Award; was elected to the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame in 1991; was named

a Knight of Holy Sepulchre in 1986; and was named an Honorary Life Member of the American Cancer Society. In addition, Bob was presented the Hixon Award by Kiwanis International for his more than 50 years of service; and was selected as Platteville's Citizen of the Year for 2007. But he always said that his most treasured honors came from his faith, his loving and supportive family and his friends who accepted him for those many years in broadcasting.

He also is survived by 33 grandchildren; and 39 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters, Eleanor, Ruthmary and Helen; two brothers, Rev. Clarence, C.Ss.R., and Edward.

Memorials may be given to the Robert J. Bodden Memorial Fund.