



Robert H. Moser, MD, MACP 1923 – 2013

AΩA, Georgetown University, 1969

I got to know Bob Moser in 2001 when he became the book review editor for *The Pharos*. For the next three years, we talked on the phone every couple of weeks, discussing books and reviews and all the things he was doing in his life. He told me about his spinal stenosis and the high-tech surgery he had for it, his bike accident (this in his 80s), his wife Linda's cat rescue operations, the sale of his home in New Mexico, his travels, his son's death.

Bob was interested in almost everything and everyone. He wanted to know all about the AΩA office, my cats, *The Pharos*, and my childhood in Hawaii, where he had also lived and worked. Bob was witty, opinionated, and fun. As we continued our chats, it gradually dawned on me that he had had quite a life: service and decorations in the Korean War, medical flight controller for the NASA Mercury and Apollo programs, chief of Medicine at Walter Reed, editor-in-chief of *JAMA*, executive vice president of the American College of Physicians. More of his background emerged in the articles he wrote for *The Pharos*: "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin Comes to Medicine" (Fall 1999), "The Korean Experience: Vignettes from Cloister to Chaos and Back"

(Summer 2002), "My Romance with Space" (Autumn 2003), and "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin Comes to Medicine—Redux" (Autumn 2009).

Bob was not one to sit back and relax in his retirement—one year he volunteered to read and review all the essays submitted to the AΩA Student Essay Competition. He raced through the more than fifty essays and wrote detailed reviews for each. From that year until this, he continued to read and review them all in a marathon session each February and March.

After Bob retired as the book review editor we kept in touch and he stayed involved in *The Pharos*, writing reviews, letters, and commentaries. In June the word came: pancreatic cancer. When I asked him if he would like to write one last article for *The Pharos*, a final laying-down-of-the-law for the profession, he said he was too tired. I knew the end must be near.

Bob died in hospice care in early August. I miss him dearly, but I know that the profession of medicine is richer for his life.

Debbie Lancaster
Managing Editor, The Pharos