

ROBERT ALLAN LEACH
Obituary

Robert Allan Leach died November 8, 2012 in Pharr, Texas of diabetes. He was 74. Born and raised in Chesterfield, Illinois, he grew up on the farm of parents Howard and Anna May Leach. He was a graduate of Carlinville High School and Eastern Illinois University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in physical education. While at the university, he was the catcher on the school baseball team and was recruited by professional scouts.



He chose a teaching career overseas, employed for 32 years by the U.S. Dept. of Defense (DODDS) to teach dependents of military families. His first assignment was in Japan, where he met and married his wife Jeanne, also a DODDS teacher. Their DODDS career encompassed eight years in Japan, two years in Korea, 27 years in Germany and four years in Sicily. They traveled extensively in Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

He received a National Science Foundation scholarship to study at the University of Hawaii, and later earned his Master of Science degree in physical education from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. During his years of high school teaching, he also coached teams in wrestling, football and track. His wrestling team won a championship. For recreation he enjoyed playing golf and bowling on the Hanau teachers league. In addition to retirement travel throughout the U.S. with his wife of 50 years, he became known for designing and painting original silk scarves.

He is survived by his wife Jeanne; his brother Jim and wife Karen; niece Stephanie and husband Chris Edwards and niece Marcie and husband Steve Adams.

A service to celebrate his life will be held Saturday, January 12, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at Kreidler Funeral Home, 314 N. 10th St. in McAllen, TX.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the American Diabetes Association . kreidlerfuneralhome.com Sign the guest book at www.themonitor.com/obituaries

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