

Dr. Robert Smith Jordan

June 11, 1929 ~ April 29, 2022

Dr. Robert Smith Jordan (Bob), 92, died peacefully of heart disease at his Parklane home in SLC, Utah, on 4/29/22, with wife, Jane, at his side. Md. 9/19/61 in the Los Angeles LDS Temple. Born 6/11/29 in Los Angeles to Mary Wright Smith (Logan, UT) and Ralph Burdette Jordan.

Bob inherited a love of words, learning, and local/world events from his parents. Began his academic career at UCLA; pursued Master's degree from the Univ. of Utah, also Asst. to the Academic VP; earned PhD at Princeton, later Pres. of the Assoc. of Graduate Alumni; and received DPhil from Oxford where he was Fulbright Scholar at St. Antony's College.

Dr. Jordan was a respected authority on U.S. national security policy, intl. orgs, and military biography. Was admin./beloved professor at the Univ. of Pittsburgh, George Washington Univ., Fourah Bay College in Sierra Leone, SUNY Binghamton, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Univ. of South Carolina (Dag Hammarskjold Visiting Professor), the Univ. of New Orleans (Dean of the Graduate School), the Army, Naval and Air War Colleges, the Univ. of Lancaster (UK) as Fulbright Professor, and more. Authored twenty+ books and numerous articles, active in many professional orgs., and enjoyed time at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC and Alta Club in SLC, among others. Received many career-related honors and awards.

Bob loved flower gardens, the symphony, baseball games and tennis, and newspapers – esp., The New York Times which he read religiously. Appreciated his Mormon pioneer heritage, and relationships with posterity, incl. many nieces and nephews. Maintained life-long friendships from Air Force days where he was an officer and earned a Bronze Star Medal; with Sigma Chi Fraternity brothers (Life Loyal Sig); and from activity in the LDS Church.

Preceded in death by his four siblings, incl. twin brother, Dr. William Smith Jordan of SLC, UT, and many peers. Survived by wife, Jane; children Sara, Rebecca (Byron), Bob, and David; grandchildren Tiffany, Emily, Benjamin, Nathan, Hannah, Caleb, Miles, and Nova; great-grandchildren Olivia, Kingston, Edith, Harper, Poet, Uriah, and Eliza; and other family members, friends and former students.

A celebration of life will be held at the University of Utah Alumni House on 6/11/22 (his 93rd b'day). For more info., contact Jane. He will later be interred at the Salt Lake City Cemetery. Contributions in lieu of flowers can be made to the scholarship fund of the Smith Family Organization – smithfamilyorganization.org.