

Dave Bartlett of Scotts Valley, California passed away at home on November 19, 2018, one week before his 85th birthday.

David Robert Bartlett was born November 26, 1933 in Ogden Utah, the youngest of four children of Jay Walter Bartlett and Mary Frances Neville. The family moved to San Francisco in 1942 and then to Berkeley, where Dave attended elementary and high school before entering San Jose State University to pursue a business degree specializing in Human Resources, then known as Industrial Relations. The study of psychology was an integral part of his education, and served him well throughout his professional life and his many years of volunteer service to children and families in the foster care system.

Dave met his wife Kay while both were students at SJSU. Kay and a sorority sister had gone to the Crystal Creamery on Santa Clara Boulevard for ice cream when a fellow student struck up a conversation with them and talked them into coming back to the apartment he shared with his roommate Dave, to eat their ice cream together. Kay says she and Dave hit it off right away and spent the rest of the evening in lively conversation, “while the ice cream sat melting on the counter.”

The couple dated while Dave went on to complete his MBA. After graduating in 1957, Kay took her newly-minted teaching credential back to her native Southern California and Dave followed, taking a job with Shell Oil Company in Long Beach, about an hour from Kay’s family home. In 1959, after 3 ½ years of courtship, they married and made the decision to quit their jobs and move back to San Jose. With the help of Dave’s older sister Rosemary, Kay landed a teaching job and Dave a position with Philco, which later became Ford Aerospace. The couple bought a home in Sunnyvale, where they lived for 20 years and raised their sons Matt and Dan. Dave added a teaching credential from Santa Clara University to his resumé, which he later utilized in teaching business classes at Cañada College, San Jose State, and Cabrillo College in Santa Cruz County.

Dave was still working at Philco in the 70’s when technology startups began taking root in what was to become Silicon Valley. Fed up with corporate culture, Dave co-founded a small consulting business, providing contract Human Resources management to numerous tech startups. Among them was the then-fledgling Plantronics, which he later described as one of the most fulfilling opportunities of his professional career. In 1985 Dave and Kay moved to Scotts Valley in Santa Cruz County, where Dave continued working as an independent HR consultant until his retirement. In the early 1990’s, through a project of USAID, Dave traveled to Russia as a business advisor helping to foster entrepreneurship in Belarus. Witnessing the day-to-day hardships of Russian life during his two-month stay was an eye-opening experience for Dave. He returned home with renewed appreciation for the freedoms of opportunity and innovation that he experienced first-hand during his years in Silicon Valley.

In 2000 Dave found a special calling as a volunteer with Court Appointed Special Advocates of Santa Cruz County, becoming a trained Advocate and officer of the court, speaking up for the

needs of children who were in foster care as a result of abuse or neglect. During his more than 15 years as a dedicated CASA Advocate, Dave supported and mentored nine children and youth -and often, members of their families- until safe and permanent homes could be found. In 2003, Dave was chosen from thousands of Advocates nationwide as National Child Advocate of the Year by the National CASA Association. During his years as an Advocate, Dave always took time to mentor new Advocates and encourage those facing challenges.

CASA Program Manager Jimmy Cook explains a less visible but vital role that Dave fulfilled on behalf of children in the dependency system. "Dave showed up without fail every other Wednesday for many years at the county offices in Santa Cruz to advocate not only for CASA's interests but to serve as the "community member" there to ensure that County social workers and other child welfare partners stuck to the plan to serve every child in need. This included children and youth in long term foster care and legal guardianship; the most vulnerable in our community. Dave was always there with a big smile, a pen and paper and his analytical mind, to express concern, ask about a detail in the social workers' reports, or inquire about something that may have been missed. His consistency at these meetings, where children and family members were virtually never there to speak up for themselves, provided a voice for dependent children who may never know that he spoke up for them. Dave did not expect his advocacy to be acknowledged or reflected in a courtroom or a county document; his only concern was that the needs of youth were met. He dedicated himself to ensuring they had the best possible chance for a life free from future harm, and full of joy."

In addition to his advocacy, Dave joined Kay in her work with the Friends of CASA auxiliary, supporting CASA special events and fundraisers. Over many years, the couple worked tirelessly on CASA's behalf, bringing many friends into the CASA fold to help support the organization, until Dave's health prevented him from continuing to participate.

Dave said of his work with CASA, "I've had the chance to really influence the outcomes in children's lives. It's given me purpose in my life." In addition to volunteering, Dave liked to walk, write personal recollections, collect sayings and quotations, observe human nature, and continually pursue personal growth, reading self-development books and maintaining a keen and curious mind.

Dave is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, Kay; son Matt of Scotts Valley, CA.; son Dan, daughter-in-law Loisa, and granddaughter Sarah of Morongo Valley, CA; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, and many admirers and dear friends. The family requests that memorial gifts in Dave's honor be made to CASA of Santa Cruz County, or Hospice of Santa Cruz County.

A memorial service will be held January 18, 2019 at 3 p.m. at the Scotts Valley Hilton.