



## Harold Anthony Roe

November 26, 2022

ROE, Harold Anthony

Suddenly on November 26, 2022 at age 89. Harry has joined Medora, his beloved wife of 51 years, who died last year. Harry will be greatly missed by daughter Anne, daughter-in-law Denise Bruno, sister-in-law Shirley and niece Sarah (Sean). Predeceased by brother Bill and nephew Tony (Margarita). Born in Boston, MA, Harry attended the Boston Latin School, where his strong academics earned him a full scholarship to Harvard University. He served his country in Germany as a Voice Interceptor during the Korean War. He returned to Harvard to complete his PhD in Linguistics, focusing on the Faroese language. After teaching at Harvard, he joined the University of Toronto, where he was a professor with the Centre for Medieval Studies and the Department of German. Harry's specialty was in medieval and earlier languages, particularly Irish and Norse. With dear friend Ann Dooley, he completed the first full translation of *Acallam na Senórach*, the largest literary text surviving from early (12th century) Ireland. The translation was published as *Tales of the Elders of Ireland*. Harry's love of languages continued throughout his life. In the past year he used Netflix to start learning Turkish! Harry was also an avid photographer, who finally closed up his well-equipped darkroom and switched to digital at age 80. He was Medora's chief fan, office manager, travel agent and muse throughout her writing career. Harry and Medora could be seen walking down to The Only Café every morning for their daily espressos when he was well into his eighties. They finally share an

evening beer together again. The family will arrange a small service at a later date, and a celebration of life for both Harry and Medora in the spring. In lieu of flowers, a donation to Harry's favourite charity, The Dictionary of Old English (<https://doe.artsci.utoronto.ca>), would be appreciated.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

DEC **14**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Basil's Catholic Parish  
50 St. Joseph Street  
Toronto, ON M5S 1J4 (CA)  
(416) 926-7110  
[office@stbasiltoronto.org](mailto:office@stbasiltoronto.org)  
<http://stbasiltoronto.org/>