Robert (Bob) Sheehan, Ph.D.,

July 23, 1925 — Sept. 5, 2014

passed to eternal rest surrounded by family members Sept. 5, 2014.

Bob was born to James and Bertha Sheehan July 23, 1925, in Boston, Mass. Although he was an only child growing up in The Great Depression, “there was always a nickel for an ice cream,” and the Red Sox could be heard on the radio in the summer. After graduating from St. Aidan’s High School in Brighton, Mass., Bob joined the Navy at the age of 17. He served as a quartermaster from 1943 to 1946 and participated in the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945. His experiences in World War II led him toward a philosophy of pacifism in subsequent years. After leaving the Navy, Bob attended Merrimack College in Andover, Mass., and graduated in 1951. In 1953 he married Teresa Catherine Flanagan of Boston. Bob received his Ph.D. in philosophy from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. in 1956 and subsequently taught philosophy at Boston College, Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J., Lewis University, Lockport, Ill., St. Mary’s College, Winona, and Winona State University where he opened a Department of Philosophy. During the Vietnam War era, Bob counseled young men wishing to apply for conscientious objector status rather than submit to military conscription. In 1990, Bob retired to Tucson, Ariz. Throughout his life he dedicated himself to political activism, supporting peace, ecological responsibility, equality and justice. He also immersed himself in the study of Eastern philosophies, various world religions and world history. His less cerebral passions were handball, yoga and most of all weightlifting, which he continued to do until the last week of his life. His greatest joy was supporting and cheering on his children in their various musical, athletic and academic pursuits.

Bob is survived by his former wife and dear friend, Terri; and their seven children, Thomas of Woodbury, Minn., Joseph of Lincoln, England, Mary of Tucson, Ann of Laguna Niguel, Calif., John of Allendale, N.J., Christine Kneisel of Tucson, and Paul of Franklin Square, N.Y.; and their spouses, loved ones and beloved children.

The family is grateful to Christine, her husband, Gregory, and their children, Casey, Avery and Katy for the incredible aid, comfort and support they gave to Bob in his last years.

Arrangements are being handled by Hudgel’s Swan Funeral Home, Tucson. In lieu of sending flowers, consider making a donation to American Friends Service Committee, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, Pa., 19102.