

ROBERT H. HOLGATE



ALPINE, NY – Robert H. Holgate Sr., of Culver Road, Alpine, NY, died Saturday, January 28, 2006, at Cayuga Medical Center. Born November 5, 1919 in Philadelphia, PA, he was the son of Paul B. and Beatrice Holgate. He was predeceased by his eldest son, Robert Jr.; and by his wife Priscilla.

Bob earned both his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Cornell. His studies, however, were interrupted by the war in Europe where he flew 30 missions over Germany. On his return, he taught literature at Cornell and Syracuse University, and then joined the faculty at Ithaca High School. With the exception of one year, 1960-61, when he taught at Wantagh High School on Long Island and was Chairman of the English Department, he taught at Ithaca High School from 1955 until his retirement in 1979. He is known by countless HIS alumni as an inspiring teacher who brought passion to the teaching and learning of the English language and its literature. Bob was devoted to his students and he held them all to exacting and caring standards. Especially through his coveted elective in creative writing. Bob shared his love for the art and craft of written expression with many successive classes of Ithaca students to whom he dedicated his teaching career.

Bob Holgate is survived by six children, Richard, Tamara, Paul, Lisle, David and Ashley; their spouses, 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Friends may call at Bangs Funeral Home at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, February 3rd, with a memorial service at 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution in Bob's memory to a charity of your choice.