



J. Pierre Kolisch

March 28, 1918–March 1, 2008



On March 1, 2008, J. Pierre Kolisch died peacefully at home with his loving family around him. He would have been 90 years old on March 28. Loved by many, he will be remembered for his intellect, wit, enthusiasm and generosity.

Pierre was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., to Paul and Victorine Kolisch. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia University and his Juris Doctor degree from Cornell University. After law school, he married Marian Wood of Portland. During World War II, Pierre was an officer in the Navy. He was a combat veteran of the North Africa and Pacific Campaigns. He practiced law in New York before moving to Portland in 1952.

Pierre established the patent and trademark law firm, Kolisch Hartwell PC. He reached the pinnacle of his profession by appearing before the United States Supreme Court. He was active in civic affairs, serving as Honorary French Consul for Oregon, president of the Oregon Symphony and a member of the board of directors of the Portland Art Museum.

Pierre loved the outdoors as only a transplanted New Yorker does. He was physically active until the last few months of his life. He particularly enjoyed skiing, swimming and playing tennis. Always curious and eager to learn, his sense of adventure led him to trek to the Mt. Everest base camp in his 50s, heli-ski the Bugaboos in his 60s, and hang glide over Rio de Janeiro bay in his 70s.

Pierre is survived by his wife of 65 years, Marian Wood Kolisch; his children, Leslie Kolisch of Camas, Wash., Christine Kolisch of Carmel Valley, Calif., and E. Pierre Kolisch of Redmond; grandchildren, Christopher Taylor of Portland, Bodhi Garrett, currently of Thailand, Kyle Kolisch and Charles Kolisch of Redmond; and great-grandchildren, Alexander and Emily Taylor of Portland.

There will be a memorial celebration at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 9, 2008, at The Racquet Club, 1853 SW Highland Road.

Remembrances to the Oregon Symphony would be appreciated.