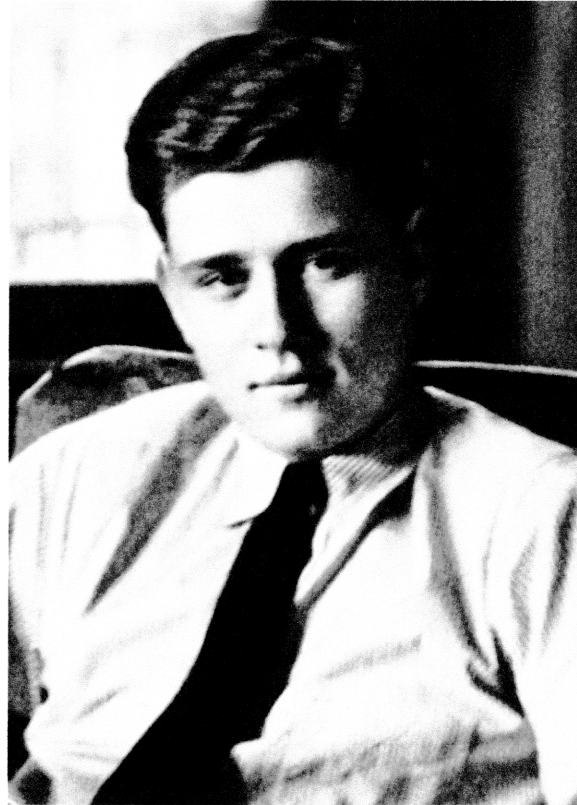


On October 20, 1944, Robert “Robbie” Roesler de Villiers was only 16 years old when he died from leukemia. Robbie’s parents were stricken with grief and frustrated by the lack of effective treatments for what was then considered a hopeless disease. In his memory, the family started a foundation in 1949.

Today, it is The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). In our 68-year history, we have invested more than \$1 billion in research to advance lifesaving treatments and cures, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. This investment has led to remarkable progress in treatments for patients.



Robbie’s legacy continues to live on in the progress we have made. Below are excerpts from a 1945 letter written by his father to preserve his memory.

I am writing this at his desk in our home. On May 14, 1944, just a year ago today, he came home from Millbrook School happy to be on the Honor Roll. In June 1945, he would have graduated from Millbrook and entered Yale, to which he was looking forward with such eager anticipation....

On Friday, October 20, 1944, Robbie left us forever – a victim of that terrible disease, leukemia. The following Christmas Eve, he would have been seventeen years old....

He had unlimited confidence in us. He was certain that we would find means to bring him back to health. We had hoped that we would succeed in keeping our Robbie alive until a cure for his illness had been found. Alas, our efforts and prayers were in vain. He was our joy, our life, our future.