



BULLISH

on life

GERALD B. CRAMER

Writing this book was difficult. Prose is not my strong suit. The pluses: writing did sharpen my memories of my family and inspired my exploration of the events and peculiarities of the twentieth century. These deep insights were a reward in and of themselves.

The *raison d'être* for *Bullish on Life* is to expose my children, grandchildren, and future progeny along with my friends and other readers into my many fantasies, foibles, and flavors. Alongside my philosophies and achievements to date, I know there will be many more as I continue my voyage. "Full speed ahead — Steady as he goes."

I hope you enjoy the book.

BULLISH ON LIFE

BULLISH ON LIFE

An Autobiography

GERALD B. CRAMER

PRIVATELY PRINTED

2007

Copyright © 2007 by Gerald B. Cramer

CONTENTS

Preface ~ vii

Beginnings ~ 1

Rochester ~ 14

Syracuse University ~ 20

The Navy ~ 29

Captain Atch ~ 52

Merrill Lynch ~ 54

Marriage and Family ~ 61

Kidder/Oppenheimer ~ 76

Creating a Business ~ 85

Principles of Business ~ 91

Oil ~ 98

Glenayre ~ 101

Coal ~ 107

On Syracuse ~ 109

Self-Worth ~ 111

Relationships ~ 112

Pleasures of Life ~ 123

Philosophy ~ 139

