



Robert G. Votaw

September 13, 1938 - January 26, 2016

Robert Grimm Votaw, died on January 26, 2016, in Farmington, CT at the age of 77. Bob was born in St. Louis, MO to Robert Edwards and Velma Grimm Votaw. He spent his childhood and youth in Ladue, MO where he attended Ladue High School and was very active in the Boys Scouts of America. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1954. He received a BA in biology in 1960 from Wesleyan University and a PhD in microbiology from Case Western Reserve University in 1964. He was a member of the faculty at Case Western until his appointment in 1966 as Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Director of Multidiscipline Laboratories at the soon-to-be built University of Connecticut Health Center. During his tenure with the UConn Health Center, Bob was instrumental in the design of the multidisciplinary labs and the medical school's first microbiology curriculum. Later he also served as an Assistant Dean of Medicine and led the development of the school's first computer-based education program. After retiring from UConn, Bob was an alternate energy project developer. An excellent researcher and teacher, avid outdoorsman, gardener, gourmet cook, gun enthusiast and historic preservationist, Bob lived for more than 35 years in Farmington, CT. He was married to the former Joye Lynn Dickens in 1961. The couple divorced in 1988. He leaves behind his three children, Marilyn Elizabeth Votaw, Andrew Berry Votaw and Laura Edwards Votaw Platt, and his daughter-in-law Kathleen Quinn Votaw, his grandson John Robert Votaw, and his close friend Norma Hartley. A memorial service will be held later in 2016. Donations in lieu

of flowers may be made to The Greater St. Louis Boy Scout Council, 4568 W. Pine Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63108 or by going online at <http://contactus.stlboa.org/>.

Tribute Wall

GS

“ *Godspeed, Bob! Your intellect, stories, and passion for life have helped enriched our lives and we are grateful. And to his family and Norma, our deepest sympathy.*

George and Cindy Szuki

George Szuki - February 10, 2016 at 12:10 PM

SP

“ *Bob was an intellectual, a principled gentleman, a great neighbor and a good friend. I have lots of fond memories of our lengthy and animated discussions. He often told me how proud he was of his illustrious parents and children. I am sad that he has passed but thankful for the wonderful memories he leaves behind. Shutish Patel.*

Shutish Patel - February 03, 2016 at 05:21 AM

BT

“ To Bob's family,

I was in the class of 1956 at Ladue High and knew both your parents. However, I was in the "fringe, invisible" part of the class and they were both in the very popular group. One of the reasons, therefore, why I have such good memories of both of them is that both were open to knowing me beyond just my name. I would need some scholarships if I could go on to college and Bob Votaw was actually one of the people who encouraged me. He also made very good grades, but he never flaunted them. We would compare scores after major tests and each time, whomever did the best got to razz the other. It was about even.

I began dating Jim Thompson my sophomore year and we had 57 years of a beautiful, peaceful marriage. He passed away Sept. 30, 2015. Now back to your Dad. Jim went to Rolla Engineering College and on St Patrick's day, the students always put out a newspaper just for that occasion. It was known to be filthy dirty, as only goofy college boys can do!! :):) Your dad asked me to get o copy for him the two years we were still in high school. Jim would get it for Bob and STAPLE it into a bag so I would not be tempted to look at it! In my senior yearbook, Bob wrote, "Best of luck, Barb. Thank Jim for the Green Sheet. Very educational. "

Just want to tell you that your mother was a lovely, conservative, rule follower who was not flamboyant but simply popular because she was a very nice person! She never put on airs or looked for attention. Such a doll!! I just talked to her today and her life has been soooooo different from what I expected!! She is brave, adventuresome and not at all conservative!!

I know there have been years of difficulties. I can only say both Bob and Joye were wonderful people in their high school days. I'm richer for having known them both.

Sincerely, Barbara Thompson class of 1956

Barbara Thompson - February 02, 2016 at 03:39 PM

KA

“ *The first time I met my father in law we had a discussion about Russians! I was 17 years old and had no idea what he was talking about and told him. I think that created a bond on day one. Bob was a deep thinker and curious about everthing. I know he was proud of me and Andy and the life we have created. Be at peace now.....we will not forget you and we will celebrate your life in ours.*

Kathleen - February 01, 2016 at 07:50 AM

JP

“ *I was Bob's son in law for 10 happy years. Around Bob, I never felt like a “son in law”. I always felt admired and respected, though it was his accomplishments, particularly academic, that I was in awe of. I felt like we were just a couple of guys swapping stories. Bob always wanted me to go shooting with him and work with him on the house in Farmington. I regret that I never took him up on the offer. I'll remember Bob by his stories, and by his mountain house, perched on hillside in Vermont, and his homestead in Farmington, with the dense stand of pines in the front. I'll know him by stories of his productive gardens in Farmington and of the family working together with their own hands to build and restore the antique house there. I'll know him as incapable of deceit, according to his neighbor Cosmo. From Laura, I'll know him as a fiercely protective father and as loyal. And from Andy, as just a good guy, a buddy. I'll just say that it often occurred to me that Bob's character is reflected in his children and the people he surrounded himself with. Andy, Marilyn, Laura, Joye, Norma, and all Bob's friends and colleagues, my thoughts are with you.....John Platt, Framingham, Massachusetts*

John Platt - January 29, 2016 at 07:30 PM



“ Marilyn and Andy - so sorry to read of your Dad's passing in the paper. I look thru the woods often to "your house" on Holly Lane and think of you both. May you all be comforted in this time of sorrow - Jeannie Ahern (Bundy Lane)

Jeanne Mogayzel - January 29, 2016 at 03:46 PM

JE

“ My deep condolences to Bob's family and my sorrow at learning of his passing. We were acquainted briefly at CWRU where I was a young faculty member and later as friends and colleagues at UCONN Health Center. Bob was always helpful and was a key figure in the growth and development of the educational support service at UCHC. He was advocating for technological innovation in medical education during those early years and ahead of his time. Those were heady years in the life of UCHC and his part in it will always be remembered by those who worked with him. My profound sympathies to his family.

Joseph A Grasso, Professor Emeritus - January 29, 2016 at 10:37 AM

AV

“ Goodbye Dad....will miss the great times we had before your illness got the better of you. You inspired me and those around you to seek knowledge and be informed. Your spirit of adventure, humor, integrity and honesty will be with me forever. Andy

Andy Votaw - January 28, 2016 at 12:04 PM