



Robert Calkins

November 22, 1925 - April 19, 2012

Robert Calkins passed away in his Fort Collins, Colorado home on Thursday, April 19, 2012. A family physician who later became a psychiatrist, he was an active teacher and community volunteer right up to the end. Born in Beatrice, Nebraska in 1925, Bob served as a medical officer in the U.S. Navy during the Korean war. He married Harriet Rickertsen in 1955 and they remained together 50 years until her death. In Kimball, Nebraska he practiced general family medicine until 1970 when he pursued a degree in psychiatry from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. From 1973 to 1988, he practiced psychiatry in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, followed by a brief period in Cheyenne, Wyoming, before retiring in Fort Collins, Colorado. In Fort Collins, Bob was active in many community organizations, including the Kiwanis; Front Range Forum (where he both attended and facilitated classes); Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgendered Persons (PFLAG); and the local senior center. He served on the ethics committee of Poudre Valley Hospital, was on the board of Northern Colorado Hospice, and was a very active member of Plymouth Congregational Church (UCC). He is mourned by his children, Susan Bodar (Jerry) of Dubois, Wyoming; David Calkins (Anne Talbot) of Scottsbluff; Bill Calkins of Denver; and Carol Calkins (Mike Moyer) of Cheyenne, Wyoming; three grandchildren, Justin Eckland (Heidi) of Sterling, Colorado; Hannah Calkins of Washington, DC; and Brooke Bodar of Dubois. He also has one surviving brother, Raymond Calkins, of Lincoln, Nebraska, two great grandchildren, and a beloved dog, Peggy. Music was one of his life's greatest pleasures. He listened to the Metropolitan Opera on the radio every Saturday for years, and eventually attended the live broadcasts of the Met at the local movie theatre. He was, himself, an accomplished musician, performing as a tenor in many venues. He was very fond of organ music and delighted in the performances of his own children. Bob will be remembered for his kindness and infectious sense of humor. He was a loving and generous father, husband, mentor, and friend, and a long time advocate for the sick, injured, and mentally ill. In lieu of flowers, his wishes were for memorial donations to be given to PFLAG Fort Collins (305 West Magnolia, PMB 117, Fort Collins, CO 80521). A memorial service will be held Saturday April 28, at 2:00 p.m., at Plymouth Congregational Church (UCC), 916 West Prospect, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Comments



“ Dear friends,
We were sorry to learn about Bob's death and just wanted you to know that we're thinking about you all. We would try to come to the funeral, but are in the middle of a move and Jeanne, Carol, Lee Ann and Beau will be here this weekend.

We have such good memories of Bob - loved that big smile, his wonderful sense of humor and his kindness. These are the first thoughts that come to mind when I think of him - I also have to smile when I think about him naming his dog Peggy Sue. I could just see a sweet man like him giving his dog a sweet name like that.

I remember hearing him singing solos in various performances with the Oratorio Society (now Valley Voices) and thought he had a beautiful tenor voice.

I know you'll all miss him. I'm sending our message this way because I want each of you to know that we are thinking of you and remembering you in our prayers.

We're sending a memorial to PFLAG in his memory.

Love and hugs to you all,

Donna and Eck

Donna Eckland - April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I will greatly miss seeing Bob in pulmonary rehab. He was always friendly and very interested in any book I was reading. You could count on him for encouragement and kind words. I am sorry for your loss.

Carol Mclean - April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Sorry to read of Dr. Calkin's passing. Bob and Harriet were formerly my neighbors in Golden Meadows. Aside from his attendance at many of my organ recitals, I knew of and appreciated Dr. Calkins' work with PFLAG. His passion for peace and social justice was unsurpassed. My deepest sympathy to the Family.

Wendell Frey - April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I can remember Dr. Calkins as I was growing up, in church. He was a very kind and compassionate man. I got the pleasure as a young lady to be a nurses aide at the hospital in Kimball, of working with him. He helped me through the passing of my baby son and through my divorce. We were neighbors when he and Ricky lived in Scottsbluff.

My prayers, thoughts and condolences go out to you all.
I know he will be greatly missed I am sure.

Judy Fleming Herman

Judy Fleming Herman - April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ It has been my pleasure to be on the PVHS Healthcare Ethics Committee with Bob for the past 5 years. His genuine caring, passion for the ill and advocacy for those who could not advocate for themselves came through in many discussions. We relied heavily on his skill, knowledge and sensibility when controversial topics divided the group.

His calm and reassuring manner and chuckle will be greatly missed.

Fran Culler - April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ We are sorry for your loss.

I always enjoyed talking with your father when ever he was in town. He always seemed so supportive of all of his children and grandchildren.

Larry Cooper & Family - April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ My sincere sympathies on the loss of Dr. Calkins. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Boyce Brown - April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Bob was a dear friend and will be deeply missed. He taught some Forum classes at Plymouth, he was on our Health Advisory Committee at Centennial High School, and was a kind and loving gentleman.

We will have a lasting memory of him for so many reasons. Most recently, his absolute delight in being in attendance at the Marcus Borg lectures.
Our sympathies are extended to his families. Barry and Caryl Beaty

Barry and Caryl Beaty - April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I am sorry to hear of Dr. Bob's passing and my thoughts and prayers go out to the family for the loss of a wonderful man, doctor, father, grandfather, and husband. He will always have a special place in my heart and was such an anchor for me for several years.

Jan Johnson - April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ It was great sadness to read of Bob's passing. The last time I saw him I knew he wasn't doing well. I knew both he and Ricki, through the Fort Collins P-FLAG. He was such a gentle, compassionate man whom I truly enjoyed. They will both be deeply missed.
Shirley Cressler

Shirley Cressler - April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dr. Bob was a very kind man and a good physician. Ricky was a dear friend from her nursing school days where I first met her. Dear friends we miss.
Shirley

Gordon & Shirley Whartman - April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Sorry to hear of Bobs death. He was special to me and the thoughts of him bring warm memories. He was always kind, supportive and continually teaching me. Even after his retirement he drove from Fort Collins to Scottsbluff to help me and the continuance of health care to our patients. I was able to have lunch with him a couple of times in Fort Collins. It was fun to talk of old times. I know he really missed Rickie. I know he loved his family and proud of them. He lived a good Christian life, contributed to so many in so many ways; he left his mark in this world. Love to all of you, Myla

Myla Schwartz - April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Our sincere condolences to all the family. We met Bob and Ricky through PFLAG and came to love them both. We regret we are unable to attend the memorial service as we will be out of town.
Ken Hoole & Tim Sagen

Ken Hoole & Tim Sagen - April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Bob was a true blessing to this community in many ways, especially for the Front Range Forum and PFLAG.

Katie Stieber - April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Sue, Justin, Brooke and all of Dr. Calkin's family,

We once met Bob in Dubois and knew he was a delightful man and loving father/grandfather. Our sincere condolences to you all.

Fondly,
Pat and Jennet Ballinger
Dubois, WY

April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ The years have flown past....we have many happy memories of wonderful medical care & friendship.

Sending our thoughts & prayers to All.

Ted & Rita

Ted & Rita Masada - April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ We just heard of your father's passing and want to send our condolences to you all. Take care of each other, Judy & Steve Gilmore

Judy & Steve Gilmore - April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM