



Robert Rademacher

April 9, 2020

Dr. Robert "Bob" Rademacher, aged 84 of Fort Collins, Colorado went to be with the Lord on April 9, 2020 after a long battle with Alzheimer's.

Bob was born on Christmas Day 1935 on a farm outside Loup City, Nebraska, to Elvin and Wilma Rademacher. He grew up the second of 4 children and was inseparable from his older brother Earl early on. His brother Gary and his sister Brenda were a source of pride his entire life and to visit his siblings and his parents was always a highlight. He loved to tell stories of his upbringing on the farm and in Loup City and would laugh to the point of tears remembering the good times there with family. He graduated from Loup City High School, where he developed his love for basketball and sports. He was the captain of the basketball team his senior year.

Bob went on to attend Nebraska State Teachers College (UNK) in Kearney, where he played on the tennis team, was the business manager for the school paper, served as the president of his sophomore class, and won the intramural basketball sportsmanship trophy, a testament to his character as a sportsman. He earned his master's degree in 1966 and eventually his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1971.

After college in Kearney, Bob became a teacher and basketball coach at Beaver City High School in Beaver City Nebraska, where he met the love of

his life, Ellen Kay Schmalen. Their love story would last for over 60 years. Bob proposed to Ellen by saying, "You wouldn't want to marry me, would you?" The two were married in Holdrege, Nebraska in August of 1960. Bob and Ellen moved to Omaha, where Bob was a teacher, tennis coach, and basketball coach at Westside High School. It was in Omaha where they began their family. Bob moved his family to Lincoln to finish his post-graduate work and, upon graduation, moved to Fort Collins, Colorado in 1969 to begin his career at Colorado State University.

Bob was a professor in the Computer Information Systems department in the School of Business for 45 years before retiring. He served as the department chair from 1974 to 1983 and loved his work, colleagues and students at CSU.

In Fort Collins, Bob and Ellen continued to grow their family. Bob was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Fort Collins and served in various positions there for over 50 years. Bob loved Colorado and the mountains. He loved to ski and camp and was active in tennis and sports in Fort Collins. He was an unwavering fan of the CSU Rams and the Nebraska Cornhuskers, and if a game was on, he was watching or attending. His prowess at fantasy sports made him an opponent his family feared matching up against and he won many championships through the years.

Bob loved his wife Ellen and his family dearly, children Greg, Lori, Marc, and David, and he could always be seen supporting his 11 grandchildren at their various events. His laugh, his counsel, and his beautiful eyes will be missed by all who knew him.

Bob is survived by his wife Ellen, his brothers Earl Rademacher and wife JoAnn of Kearney Nebraska, Gary Rademacher and wife Pam of Nebraska City, and sister Brenda Anderson of Lincoln Nebraska, four children, Greg Rademacher and wife Courtney of Fort Collins, Lori Rademacher Wurth and

husband James of Frederick, Colorado, Marc Rademacher and wife Shannon of Fort Collins, David Rademacher and wife Betse of Firestone, Colorado, his 11 grandchildren Tyler, Jake, Gracie and Zac (Greg and Courtney), Noah and Hannah (Lori and James), Joe, Reagan and Peter (Marc and Shannon) and Ryan and Rachel (David and Betse).

His Father, Elvin and Mother, Wilma preceded Bob in death.

A service will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Collins, after restrictions are lifted, to celebrate Bob's life.

Tribute Wall

RI

“ *Mr Rademacher was my first coach at WHS (fresman basketball circa 1962). I remember his "flattop" haircut and positive attitude. He was full of encouragement and building his players self esteem. No question he was the best coach of my lifetime. Rest easy Coach Rademacher.*
Rich Ide WHS 1965

Rich Ide - April 25, 2023 at 05:11 PM



“ *Robert Rademacher*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM

TB

“ *I am sorry to hear of the passing of Bob (and Ellen). Bob was probably my favorite CIS professor at CSU, where I got my bachelor's in 2006. I still parrot "delight the customer" as one of my driving professional axioms as a software developer, and that's something he always said that stuck with me. I really appreciated his warm demeanor and kind wit, and his old soul contentment in any situation.*

I heard that phrase in a training today, and it made me wonder hey, maybe I could go find Rademacher if he's still in town and thank him for his teaching, but I can't. I'm sure he knew in general, as I could tell he loved teaching, but that he was proud of his students. Peace be with his family, who were blessed with this fine man for their whole lives.

Tim Bessler - March 04, 2022 at 12:50 AM



“ I was a Freshman at Axtell High School where Bob completed his Student Teaching. OMG! The girls were agog, and rightfully so. Later, my mom married Louis Schmalken who had a daughter named Ellen. Our relationship was never ending. I came back from Vietnam November 1966. Bob and I hunted pheasants over the years around Stamford, NE. His biggest love was challenging a dear family friend whose former husband was a Nebraska delegate, a Democrat. Bob always referred to her, and Charlie, as a God damned Democrat. As a recruiter for Marine Corps fighter pilots, my routes included the University of Nebraska. Bob and Ellen lived in a government housing area which was part of the then, Lincoln Air Force Base. I remember only Greg who was five or six years old at the time. Bob and Ellen always welcomed me into their home.

Loren Zimmerman - January 20, 2022 at 02:57 AM



“ I am so sorry to be getting to this wall so late. First, my condolences to Professor Rademacher's family. I was a student in Professor Rademacher's Intro to Fortran class at CSU in 1974, and worked for him that summer programming in basic on a breakthrough HP "desktop" computer. Not only was he a great teacher, he was an extraordinary mentor even for only a short time, and no other professor, undergraduate and law school, made the impression on me that he did. Thank you Bob for making such an impact on my career in such a short time.

*Dale Strauss
Midland, TX*

Dale Strauss - October 18, 2021 at 10:06 PM

KD

“ *Mr. Rademacher was one of my favorite teachers at Westside High School in the early '60s. I remember him as being very kind and positive. I wish I had known that he was living here in Fort Collins all these years as I would have liked to say hello to him and thank him for his patience and good humor. Karen Weber Dornseif*

Karen A Dornseif - April 18, 2020 at 03:11 PM

LS

“ *Bob and I worked together at CSU first as faculty colleagues, then as Department Heads (I was Chair of Accounting), then later on I was Associate Dean of the College while he was Department Head. So, I worked much more closely with him than most in the college of business. He was a delight to work with and became a good friend. Bob did enjoy a good laugh - on one occasion he found a list of nonsense words that you could string together with a few verbs thrown in and create an essay that sounded very profound but actually meant nothing. I read that thing several times and finally stopped by his office to ask him what he was trying to say. He, of course, laughed and said it was all a joke then laughed again when he said I was the only one who had asked him about it. I told him I had always believed ignorance could be cured and that was why I had asked what it meant. He and I laughed about it several times. Ellen, Sarah and I were sorry to hear that Bob is gone want you to know we are praying for you and your family. Our family and yours were connected for many years in what were really good days. We don't travel much anymore but if we do get back to the Fort, we will be sure to stop by.*

Lee Schmidt - April 16, 2020 at 01:40 PM

DA

“ My condolences to the family. Bob was a great friend and fraternity brother. We shared many good times together. God Bless him and his family.

*Dewey Asher
Washington Ill.*

Dewey Asher - April 15, 2020 at 03:18 PM

JF

“ Dear Ellen -- So sorry to read today about Bob's passing. I and my girls remember you and your many kindnesses to them so very fondly. We send caring thoughts and sympathy from our family to yours.

Jean & Wyrick-Hall family - April 15, 2020 at 02:08 PM

RM

“ I probably hadn't spoken to Bob since our kids were in high school and college. I remember him as always being interested in what our two sons, Nate and Andy, were doing. A great guy and so easy to talk with. All the best to Ellen and family.

Ric and Sally Miller

Ric Miller - April 15, 2020 at 01:33 PM

BB

“ Ellen, we are so sorry to learn of Bob's passing. Remembering all the fun times in the neighborhood. Our hearts go out to you and your family.

Bill and Berny Boyer

Bernice Boyer - April 15, 2020 at 12:11 PM

MW

“ Greg, Lori, Marc, David, and Ellen: The Walz family sends prayers and condolences. Praying for a peace in these troubled times.

Mike Walz - April 15, 2020 at 09:45 AM

SW

“ The Rademacher’s, my second family growing up. Greg and I became great friends, just at that time in life when things are simple and innocent. Bob, Greg’s Dad, was always around and there are so many great memories. I can remember how he would have Greg and I laughing so hard with some of the stories he would tell us. Bob didn’t know it then, but Greg and I got our first beer from him, from the college party he would throw every year. (Back then, our taste for the finer things had us saying “Bud is too harsh” “Coors is a little smoother.”). We were knuckle heads.

One of my favorite memories of Bob, I always just called him Greg’s Dad, was when he told us about how he thwarted some guy in college who was rushing him. “I threw the Trebor hold on him and it knocked him out!” Greg and I were amazed, we needed to know what this “move” was. After talking about it with Bob for a long time, even acting it out, we learned it was a choke hold and Bob decided he’d tell us it was the “Trebor” hold because...well, that’s Robert spelled backwards. He had us laughing again. It was great to grow up with such a great family as my best friends and my second family. I am so thankful for how I was always welcomed and felt like I was part of the Rademacher clan. I got to go on trips, out to eat, and to so many fun places because of my friends the Rademacher’s.

Bob will be missed by so many, it is a great man who is able to have an effect on so many people’s lives.

Scott Webb - April 13, 2020 at 07:40 PM

JM

“ *What a great colleague—always a smile and a kind word. A wonderful husband and father—Mary and I have such fond memories of Bob and Ellen, and their three children. Our most heartfelt condolences.*

Jim and Mary McCambridge

Jim & Mary McCambridge - April 12, 2020 at 08:04 PM

PP

“ *So sorry to hear about Bob and his bout with Alzheimer's. Our hearts go out to Ellen and the whole family. We remember Bob as a fun loving guy always with a smile on his face. Many happy times at the college of business parties.*

Pat Prill - April 12, 2020 at 01:32 PM