



Francis, Robert C.

September 8, 1942 - April 25, 2021

Robert C. Francis passed away on April 25, 2021. Rob was born on September 8, 1942 to J.D. and Elizabeth Francis. A lifetime Dallas resident, he graduated from Highland Park High School and then SMU where he was a Phi Delta Gamma. He was a talented entrepreneur, who started his first real estate company before graduating SMU and was always on the hunt for the next property or trade up until the end. In 1980, he married Mary Ann Alquist, his beloved partner, teammate, and best friend. Rob was kind-hearted, generous, and witty. He was known for his jovial nature, youthful spirit, and infectious smile. He was a devoted husband, supportive brother, loving father, doting grandfather, loyal friend and was loved by all that knew him. Rob was an avid tennis player and was often seen playing at Dallas Country Club where he won several championships. Rob organized the annual Francis Christmas Eve Tennis Tournament, a family favorite. His tenacity, skill, and love for the game kept him playing up until his final days. An Eagle Scout, Rob thoroughly enjoyed the outdoors, planning innumerable hiking and camping trips with family and friends. He was known as “Coach Francis” to many for his contributions to youth sports. Rob was passionate about breeding and racing horses. He was a longtime member of the Texas Thoroughbred Association, having served on the Board of Directors, and as Secretary-Treasurer, as well as being named 1993 Horseman of the Year. Above all, Rob loved and valued his extended family and numerous friends. He made lifelong friends at every stage of his journey, having a special nickname for each of them. He was predeceased by his parents and brothers Shannon and Foster. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Mary Ann, his sons: Cary, John (Lena), and Will (Lara), his granddaughters: Gigi, Preston, Allie, and Foster, his siblings: Ray Francis (Margie) and Martha Francis (Chuck McCarter), his sisters-in-law: Sue Francis and Robin Carreker, and his many nieces and nephews. The family wishes to also acknowledge the love and care given to him by Kristina Goff. A memorial service will be held at Highland Park Presbyterian Church on Friday, May 7, 2021, at 3:30 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to VNA’s Meals on Wheels program. Rob was as good as it gets, and the world is that much dimmer for his departure. We are thankful for our time together and for all the lessons he taught us. He will truly be missed.

Events

MAY **Celebration of Life** 03:30PM - 04:30PM

7

Highland Park Presbyterian Church

3821 University Blvd., Dallas, TX, US, 75205

Comments



“ Gig Reeves and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Francis, Robert C..



Gig Reeves and family - May 06 at 01:54 PM



“ -The Winston Kelly Family purchased the Reflections of Glory Wreath for the family of Francis, Robert C..



-The Winston Kelly Family - May 06 at 08:49 AM



“ With Distinction was purchased for the family of Francis, Robert C..



May 04 at 02:06 PM



“ Jim and I were saddened with the passing of Rob. We shared the title of grandparents .

When Gigi was born, the four of us were front and center. His wit came out when he looked at her and said “ I didn’t know they were born with hats on.” He will be sorely missed.

Sue Phagan

Sue Phagan - May 02 at 07:08 PM



“ Rob Francis and I shared a love for Francis genealogy and met through our mutual interest in a Francis Y-DNA project. This project identified twelve Francises who shared identical or closely related Y-DNAs. Rob contacted me by email, and since I live in Arlington, it was convenient for us to meet for lunch several times over a period of about a year. With Rob having such an outgoing personality and easy-going manner, I immediately counted him as a friend even though I had known him for only a short period of time. When I read his obituary, I was immediately drawn to the statement that he always had a special nickname for his friends. I was no exception. Once he found out that I was a retired professor of chemistry, I was known as “professor” from that point on. Rob and I contacted each of the other members of our Y-DNA group. We had begun a project to identify the common ancestors of all members of our group, but, unfortunately, it was no longer possible for Rob to work on the project. What a pleasure it was to know him. I will miss his genealogical expertise but most of all, his friendship.

Robert (Bob) Francis
Arlington, Texas

Robert F Francis - May 02 at 10:29 AM



“ Rob touched the lives of all he knew and his zest for life was incomparable. Words are inadequate to express the sorrow and sympathy that we extend. He will remain in our hearts and in our memories forever.

Deborah Brown - Park Cities Historic and - May 02 at 09:36 AM



“ Rob and I made many trips together going to horse meetings/functions and sharing breakfast when in Dallas as an excuse to get caught up. I always felt guilty as Rob asked so many questions about my activity and what was going on with my family. I would leave two hours later and realize he directed all the conversations towards me. He was a kind soul and I will cherish all the good memories of my good friend.

Bruce Hill

Bruce Hill - May 01 at 01:02 PM



“ His wonderful life is no surprise to those who know him in high school. Always gracious and friendly. God Speed to him and blessings for his family.

Gay Lawrence Bryant - May 01 at 09:41 AM