



Robert M. Ghrist

January 17, 1954 - March 23, 2019

Robert Meredith Ghrist died a competitor in the Tulip Trail Run on March 23, 2019. He was 65 years old.

Robert was a man of unlimited kindness. He loved his family above all else. He was an active man who would play golf or bridge every hour of the day if possible, but could otherwise be found in his garden where his flowers bloomed. He also could be found going on adventures and making mischief with his two grandsons.

Robert's mother Elizabeth is renown in Houston, Texas for her civic contributions fundraising for many charities. Robert's father John was an avid outdoorsman who fished and hunted together with Robert. Together, Liz and Johnny raised four children in Houston, Texas. Robert was their eldest son and was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico on January 17, 1954. Robert attended Robert E. Lee High School before attending Rice University and medical school at the University of Texas.

Before completing medical school, Robert met Barbara Dunkle, a yankee. They married on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania on a snowy and frigid day, December 19, 1981. Despite the cold, their love was warm, which led to the welcoming of their three children Carolyn, Diane, and Andrew. The family of five toured the country together and made roots in Davis,

California. They would later welcome their adopted son and nephew, Alex, into their family. In Davis, Robert was able to fulfill his dream of being a small-town doctor where he would frequently bump into his patients on the street. Many of his patients would drive over an hour to see him because he was just that good. Robert cared so much for his patients, he even made house calls to his elderly patients just to say hi. He loved being a doctor and doing so much to make his patients' lives better.

Robert and Barbara moved to Oregon City in November 2016 to be near his two favorite companions, his grandsons Jack and Henry, as well as to fulfill his and Barbara's dream of retiring together in the Pacific Northwest. Robert became an immediate staple in the Oregon City community. He could be found volunteering at various Oregon City events with Carolyn, who teaches at Oregon City Preschool. He even once operating the municipal elevator. Robert was a member of Willamette Valley Country Club, where he could be found on multiple days a week. He was so happy to find the welcoming community there, especially with the senior men's group. He loved being able to hit balls with Jack and Henry at the driving range and for golf lessons.

Robert will be remembered for his intelligence and subtle wit along with his extraordinary generosity and kindness to both his family, neighbors, friends, and strangers alike. He was a man who had deep empathy for the poor and veterans of war who had difficulty getting access to medicine. His family is so grateful to have had him and his exceptional love for them.

Robert is survived by his wife, Barbara; his mother, Elizabeth; two daughters Carolyn and Diane; two sons Andrew and Alex; two grandsons Jack and Henry; sister, Genie; brother, John; nephews Gregory, Patrick, Matthew, Danny, and John; and nieces Meredith, Melissa, and Elizabeth. He was so proud of all of us.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 30. 1:00 PM (PT)

St. Paul Episcopal Church
822 Washington St
Oregon City, OR 97045

Tribute Wall



“ Robert M. Ghrist

January 28, 2023 at 02:51 PM



“ I remember Robert as the very quiet and brilliant young boy of 15 who lived next door and would babysit for me. He was also my "yard" man and my yard was perfect. I still have a written note from Robert that he gave me at Christmas promising me one yard service to be claimed at my discretion. As I said Robert was very quiet and only talked when he had something to say, not chatter. My favorite remembrance is a time when Robert was babysitting. I had just received a pantsuit from a seamstress that my mother-in-law used and really liked. When I tried it on (to wear to a bridge party that night), it fit nicely but it was not "me." It had too many ruffles. But I had paid for it and was determined that I was going to wear it. When I went downstairs to say goodbye to my children and Robert, Robert very quietly and honestly said "Mrs. Gilliam, you look like a clown." I went upstairs and changed and donated my outfit to goodwill. I had the utmost respect for his opinion and love and miss him even today.

Nancy Gilliam - April 21, 2019 at 04:45 PM



Carolyn Ghrist

Thank you so much for sharing. This was very special to read and put a smile on my face.

Carolyn Ghrist - April 22, 2019 at 12:15 AM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Robert M. Ghrist.*



March 29, 2019 at 09:10 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert M. Ghrist.*



March 29, 2019 at 05:28 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Robert M. Ghrist.*



March 29, 2019 at 03:48 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Genie - March 29, 2019 at 02:02 PM



“ *Love Everlasting Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert M. Ghrist.*



March 29, 2019 at 11:43 AM

MT

“ I met Robert over 30 years ago, when he was just starting his career as a physician, in his residency. I will never forget in our conversations (about emergency medicine) his philosophical thoughts on life and how attitude affected health. Robert was a nerd like me. He thought deeply but expressed his thoughts modestly. He decided later on when he was a family doctor to take less income so he could spend more time with his patients. He was so genuine and true to his profession and himself. I hope his fellow doctors noticed and admired him as much as I did.

Robert caught that 23 lb. pike in the picture while he and Barb were vacationing at Vallecito lake with Chris and I. I am proud to have been with him when he did that. For you anglers, he caught it on ultralight equipment with 6 lb test line using a 3” rubber worm on a tiny No. 6 hook! No leader. Took 45 minutes to get the monster into the boat. He truly did love to fish and we had that story after that to tell and retell. What fun.

And it was a good thing, too, since our golf prowess is not worth discussing. But it will be remembered for the laughs and cries over hacked shots. And just a few great ones. And the hail all over the green when we golfed in Durango over Memorial day.

I miss you, Robert. I will remember you.

Your Friend,

Mike

Mike Tweedle - March 29, 2019 at 10:57 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Robert M. Ghrist.



March 29, 2019 at 08:31 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Robert M. Ghrist.



March 29, 2019 at 01:40 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes* was purchased for the family of Robert M. Ghrist.



March 28, 2019 at 10:14 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Robert M. Ghrist.



March 28, 2019 at 08:44 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert M. Ghrist.*



March 28, 2019 at 06:04 PM



“ *I didn't know Robert but it was honor to be with him and help first responders at the run. My heart goes out to family and friends. From what I have learned about him he lived a wonderful life devoted to others. You are in my prayers.*

Gretchen Brunner

Gretchen Brunner - March 27, 2019 at 05:33 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert M. Ghrist.*



March 27, 2019 at 02:17 PM



“ *Carolyn, he seems like an incredible man. Your and the boys bond with him is palpable just in the way you speak of him. My heart goes out to you all and I hope your memories with him can carry you through this exceptionally difficult time. -Catherine and Isaac*

Catherine - March 25, 2019 at 08:12 PM



“ 21 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Carolyn Ghrist - March 25, 2019 at 06:53 PM