



Robert E. Kay

May 28, 1931 - March 3, 2021

On March 3, 2021 Dr. Robert E. Kay of Philadelphia died at home of COVID-19. He is survived by Susan O'Connell and his three children Pamela, Jeffrey, and Stephen, Jeff's wife Roz, Steve's wife Kathy, two granddaughters and grand sons-in-law, and a great-granddaughter.

Dr. Kay was an Eagle Scout, Army Major, graduate of Brown University and Tufts Medical School. His practice of psychiatry was focused on helping the most severely mentally ill, juvenile delinquents, and drug addicts.

Bob had many interests including music, especially classical and jazz. He enjoyed listening to music at the Curtis Center for many years. An avid book reader, his interests varied but always included some writing on children and schools. He enthusiastically encouraged home schooling and unschooling children. He was known for sharing his views on these topics via mail and verbally to any person who had the patience to listen. His aim was to make a difference. He was kind to others, often stepping in to help when asked.

Bob was born May 28, 1931 in New York City the only child of Edward and Eleanor (Wolfe) Kay. He grew up in the New York City area and London. He married Mollyann Keat on June 5, 1953 and they divorced in 1972. The Kays moved to the Philadelphia area in 1967. He was actively involved in the Main Line Unitarian Church and the Philadelphia Ethical Society and was known for his generosity.

Bob will be interred alongside his parents at the Main Line Unitarian Church. A memorial service will be held in the future.

Comments



“ Dr. Bob was a dear friend to my Gammie & Opa (the Brunsbergs.) During many of our visits from Florida he would stop by for lunch or we would head into the city to see him. When my daughter was still a toddler he planted the seeds of homeschooling in my mind. Each visit he would provide me with more information and an abundant amount of encouragement. He mailed me packets of articles, studies, and Peter Greys books. When the time came to enroll Rylin in school I chose to homeschool her instead. We are going into our 6th year of homeschooling and I can't thank Dr. Bob enough for giving me the confidence and knowledge to choose THIS life for our family. We last saw him when he came to see Rylin's figure skating competition at Aston Ice Works in September 2019 and he got to see for himself what an impact he has had in our lives. We are so grateful and blessed to have known him; he will be deeply missed! - The Milmont's

Tasha Milmont - May 11 at 05:09 PM



“ My husband and I were neighbors to Bob over the past 10 years. He was a gentle soul with a slightly eccentric side, a caring professional, and a passionate critic of the education system. Bob liked to slip interesting articles under my door to later discuss if we met in the lobby or elevator. He was kind and thoughtful and loved classical music. In his last years Bob was blessed with Sue, his loving companion, Sue, a lovely woman. We were surprised and saddened by Bob's death and we offer our condolences his family.

Susan and Jim Matour

Susan Matour - April 07 at 07:46 PM



“ Bob was a longtime sweet friend, My husband and I shared many times, ideas, and events together. He was fun to be around with his statistics and creative thoughts to help the human condition. We will miss his kind humble presence as our neighbor and caring friend. Susan was a source of pleasure in his last years which we also were happy about.

Lynn Hubschman - March 21 at 10:24 PM



“ I am so very sad about my dear friend Bob’s death. He was an intelligent, ethical, generous and positive man who became a close friend over the years I lived in Philadelphia. He was a bit of a mentor, but mainly just a good good friend who I admired very much. He introduced me to the delight of the Curtis Institute’s twice weekly recitals (which gave me great pleasure during the decade I spent in Philly). I have wonderful memories of attending the Philadelphia Ethical Society meetings with him, and our weekly breakfast’s at “Mrs. K’s”, the little Greek diner on Chestnut between Third and Fourth where we would engage in passionate conversations about current political, cultural and philosophical issues (including of course the U.S. educational system, one of his favorite pet peeves). And I possess so many other of wonderful memories of this unique and kind gentleman. He will be sorely missed by me and all that knew him. My condolences to Sue O’Connell, who he loved so very much, and his three children, including sweet Pamela who also sometimes joined us often on at our breakfasts.

Paul Kettunen - March 17 at 08:10 AM