



Dr. Robert "Bob" T. Robbins

FEB 10, 1940 - NOV 26, 2024



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Dr. Robert "Bob" T. Robbins

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Dr. Robert "Bob" T. Robbins was born February 10th 1940 in Oskaloosa, Kansas to John Donald Sr. and Lois (Johnson) Robbins and passed away in Fayetteville, Arkansas November 26th 2024. He was surrounded by family his last days at the Willard Walker Hospice House, and peacefully passed away with his loving wife at his side.

Dr. Robbins enjoyed a childhood growing up in Oskaloosa on the Johnson Family farm. As a boy he loved to fish and hunt with his friends. He occupied his time recovering from polio building model airplanes. He was a standout student and athlete lettering in 4 sports every year of high school. Robert was awarded a Scholarship at Kansas State University playing football and earning his Bachelor of Science in Biology and Education. He taught high school biology until he went back to Kansas State University to earn his Master's degree in Plant Pathology. Dr. Robbins then continued his education at North Carolina State University earning his PhD in Nematology, starting a lifelong career in that field of study.

In 1973 he was employed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture as a Nematologist. In 1979 he accepted a position as an Associate Professor in Nematology at the University of Arkansas. It was here he became a leading expert in the field of Nematology. He was a fellow of the Society of Nematology and earned the prestigious title of University Professor. Dr. Robbins authored and co-authored over 150 papers on the subject of Nematology, including 33 papers on identifying new species of nematodes. His contributions were felt worldwide with travels to China, Russia, Europe and beyond sharing his knowledge. Dr. Robbins was most proud of the many students that he taught and mentored as they became leaders in the study of Nematology. He retired from the University of Arkansas in 2019 after 40 years of research and teaching and was granted the distinction of Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Robbins' impact went beyond his academic endeavors as he gladly gave his time leading young men in Boy Scout Troop 190 serving as a Scoutmaster for 10 years. He was a patient leader to many scouts encouraging them to "be prepared". He enjoyed his time outdoors camping,



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hiking, backpacking, and canoeing. He most loved his time with his scouts on the Buffalo River at Camp Orr. He was so proud of all his scouts, and many of his scouts earned the rank of Eagle, including his two sons.

Robert shared special trips with his wife and family making lifetime memories. He had a special bond with each of his sons and supported them in all that they did. He cherished his four grandchildren and loved them deeply. Robert left behind a legacy of character, love, and family that will never be forgotten.

Dr. Robbins is survived by his wife of 59 years Carolyn Louise Hunt Robbins. His son Brian Robbins (Wendy), grandson Connor and granddaughter Lindsey of Fayetteville, Arkansas; son Dr. Eric Robbins (Holly) and grandsons Luke and Zack of Conway, Arkansas; a beloved nephew George Robbins (Rhonda) of Oskaloosa, Kansas. Sister Emily Mark; niece Sarah Parker and numerous nephews, nieces, and other loving family. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother John Donald Robbins, Jr.

A family service will be held this spring at his nephew's farm Robbins Acres in Oskaloosa. Dr. Robbins was a quiet and modest man and requested no service at this time. Robert requested half his ashes to be spread at the farm and half interred at First United Presbyterian Church Columbarium in Fayetteville, AR.

In remembrance of the life of Dr. Robbins the family requests donations be made to the First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville at fupcfay.org or mail to 695 E. Calvin Street, Fayetteville, AR 72703.



Tribute Wall

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CB

Changhwan Bae posted:

Dear Dr. Robbins I am so sorry to hear of your passing so late. I will never forget the passion and care you showed to my family and me during my PhD program. I hope you will always remember your humor in heaven and bring joy to those there. Thank you always. from Changhwan South Korea

July 24 at 1:56 AM

MC

Marco Cordero posted:

Working with Dr Robbins for 5 year was not only the road to take to earn my PhD, He was my friend, a person with a great heart able to understand and teach you anything that was at his reach. Dr Robbins was an example of life and how to work with no rest but without pause, something that he show me without tell any word. His energy to help others in his field was enormous. Something that I remember is all the sayings that he use in his daily life, some serious that sometimes he had to explain them to me and some quite funny that were hilarious to share. I am glad that life let me know him and learn from him, It was quite a honor to share those 5 years with him. My friend "Dr Bob" as sometimes I called him. It was a real pleasure. My thoughts are with you in this moments Mrs. Carolyn. Marco Cordero

December 2 at 2:59 PM

SW

Sandy Wickizer posted:

During my 41 years in Plant Pathology the time that Dev and I spent working for Dr. Bob was the best. Dev and I would be in working away in the sweltering greenhouse and Dr. Bob would always come out to check on us and would ask, "Are we having fun yet?" I will always think fondly of Dr. Bob when I hear those words. It was an honor to work with someone so well-respected in the scientific world. I have complete respect for such a good person and boss. May you rest in well-earned peace, Dr. Bob. Sandy Wickizer

December 1 at 7:24 AM



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Ken Korth posted:

My condolences Carolyn, and to the whole family. Bob was such a good guy and colleague, will be missed by many friends and colleagues from his work days. He was a big help to my research when we tried some experiments using nematodes. When I was in his building I would always drop in to see him. We would talk nematodes, but it almost always led to hearing about the grandkids, kids, or his latest coin or jewelry find. We both got our PhD degrees at NCSU although he was a few years earlier than me, and I enjoyed hearing about what Raleigh and graduate school was like in the years you lived there. Bob made many contributions to science and agriculture in Arkansas and beyond. He was very proud of the excellent students he trained and who continue his legacy. Ken Korth
Department Head, Entomology and Plant Pathology University of Arkansas

December 1 at 6:10 AM



Cheryl Faris posted:

Carolyn, Eric and Brian I am so sorry to hear this news. I so remember all the good times we had going back many years ago. Bob was a wonderful man. I have so many memories of times going back to our time at KU Med, our weddings, family gatherings, our Friday night Pitch games, and so much more. I wish I could give each of you a hug in person.. i cherish all of these memories and each one of you. Cheryl

December 1 at 2:19 AM



Lyn Edington posted:

I am so very sorry, Carolyn. I still remember something you told us at work after he returned from a trip to Russia. He had packed canned tuna and other perishable food items in his suitcase so he would have something that he could eat. When he realized how little his host family had, he left all of the food and most of his clothes with them. What a kind, compassionate man. His legacy will carry on in his sons and grandchildren.

November 30 at 11:10 AM

PD Pam Delaney November 30 at 7:54 PM

I am so sorry for your loss. I used to see Bob at garage sales looking for silver treasures. Sometimes he would take to his car to show me what he picked up that day. Always having a good time. Great role model for his family.

ER Eric Robbins November 30 at 2:48 PM

Lyn, thank you for sharing. He intentionally overpacked, even clothing for this host family's children. He would never draw attention to what he did. Sums up his generosity!! What a great memory! Eric



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Joni Jongewaard posted:

So sorry for your loss Ms. Carolyn 🙏

November 30 at 10:38 AM



John Kyle Day, Ph.D. posted:

In addition to being one of the great, trailblazing, world-renowned scientists of his generation, Dr. Robbins was also a good family man, civic leader, and excellent role model for both his own boys and their many friends who grew up with them. The Day Family offers our most sincere condolences to Mrs. Carolyn and the Robbins. Most sincerely, Kyle Day

November 30 at 4:48 AM



Eric Robbins November 30 at 3:05 PM

Kyle, Thanks for recognizing dad. He loved Nematodes!! Who knew you could have such an impact studying microscopic parasitic roundworms? He was such a good man. He is missed by many...Eric



Jackie Williams posted:

My condolences Carolyn so sorry for your loss Jackie

November 30 at 3:31 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Robert.



November 29 at 11:58 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Robbins family.



November 29 at 9:11 AM



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Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Robert.



November 29 at 9:11 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Robert by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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