



Mr. Robert Joseph Philbin

February 6, 1943 - September 19, 2020

Robert Joseph Philbin of Plant City, Florida passed away on Saturday, September 19, 2020.

Robert is survived by his loving wife Sharon Philbin of 49 years, devoted son Ryan Philbin, daughter in-law Lisa Philbin, grandchildren Amy Aungst, Adam Aungst, Jesse Moll, great grandson Austin Aungst, sister Lynell Feniak, brother in-law Joe Feniak and his feisty dog Sophie Rose. His adoring daughter Maegen Philbin predeceases Robert, as well as his parents Ed and Dolores Philbin. Robert was loved by his many nieces, nephews, cousins and numerous friends at O'Brien's Irish Pub.

Robert received his degree in Electrical Engineering from Newark College of Engineering. After 35 exemplary years of employment Robert retired from L3 Communications while residing in San Diego, California. Robert and Sharon relocated to Florida in 2008 making Plant City their permanent home. Robert was a member of the Plant City Elks Club and served as a Director on the Preserves Homeowners Association.

Family and friends will miss "Chef Bobby's" entertaining and delicious dinner parties, kind heart and supportive nature. Family and friends will cherish and carry his memory forever in their hearts.

A celebration of Robert's life will be held at a later date to be determined. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Robert's memory to: Make-A-Wish Southern Florida at <http://site.wish.org/goto/RobertJosephPhilbin>.

Tribute Wall

JL

“ I played chess in Junior and Senior High School in Webster, NY. Got serious enough to be on the high school chess team. I even played in weekend Rochester chess tournaments. So probably Robert and I had something in common: Geekiness (yah Sharon, Robert was geeky, but you know that!).

Oh wait it gets better. Around 1975 or so I got a chess set for Christmas from my parents (well ok, my mom, Dad was out drinking beer with Uncle Joe and Jimmy, you know, the Empire Wrecking crew). It was a beautiful set. It was made of Onyx. The board was made of ice blue and ice white squares of Onyx marble measuring 18x18x1. The chessmen were sculptured pieces with 4" Mayan-"Tiki" looking Kings and Queens.

It had to weigh 10 pounds.

It was bought in Mexico at my Mother's request to someone going on vacation there.

And actually, it was bought early in the day at a Mexican tourist shop, and unfortunately the hotel was not nearby so the set had to be carried for most of the day until the return to the hotel.

At the end of vacation, that set boarded a plane, traveled to the US, and was hand delivered to my mom,

by Robert Philbin.

That board continued to travel with me across several states and probably 30 apartments.

Around 2003 I leaned the board against the wall in my house in New Orleans. Yup. I bumped it and wow did it shatter; as depressing as it was seeing it (in slow motion) hit the tile floor, it was really cool to see the effects of the shattering pattern of the onyx. I think Robert would have liked to have seen the Physics of the shattering too, but of course with a different specimen.

But I still have most of the pieces today. I have added a photo of them tonight where I set them up on a chess board Denise's mom gave for Christmas a while back. I stuck in my "Tiki" Tac Toe boards I make nowadays.

I guess it's those little things that really have an effect on you. But

*then again, in this case, it was a big and heavy thing,
carried by Robert,
some 45 years ago.*

*Yah, there's really not too many days I don't pass by those pieces,
in my garage in Charleston,
which I have set up on Aunt Helen's dresser,
which Uncle Barry gave me,
that I don't think of Robert,
in the best of possible ways.*



James LaRue - October 20, 2020 at 08:15 PM

S(

*Jimmy, I loved this story. Thank you for sharing. It's always so nice to
hear how many different ways people touch our lives with their
kindness. Robert was the best and will be missed greatly.*
Liz

Susan (Liz) - October 21, 2020 at 10:41 AM

LP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



lisa philbin - September 23, 2020 at 10:25 PM

LP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



lisa philbin - September 23, 2020 at 10:02 PM

LP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



lisa philbin - September 23, 2020 at 09:52 PM

SS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Susan Steffen-LaRue - September 23, 2020 at 08:38 PM

SS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Susan Steffen-LaRue - September 23, 2020 at 08:17 PM

SS

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Susan Steffen-LaRue - September 23, 2020 at 07:04 PM

JD

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Julie A DiLella - September 23, 2020 at 02:19 PM

JD

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Julie A DiLella - September 23, 2020 at 02:18 PM

JD

“ *Many cherished memories of time spent together as a family. They moved to Southern California in the 70's for better work opportunities, but never lost touch with their people back home. When Susan and I went to CA for their 25th wedding anniversary I was so impressed with all the people there to toast the anniversary. Friendship and warmth followed the Philbin Family at home, on trips, in business, literally everyplace they went.*

I admired Uncle Robert for all that he accomplished in his life both professionally and personally. He helped me understand that getting educated is a matter of working hard at it. He made me understand that you need to make it happen on your own, in your own way, as he did.

He and my dear Aunt are two of the most generous, loving people that I've known throughout my life. My world is better because of them. I will miss you Uncle Bobby!

Julie A DiLella - September 23, 2020 at 02:01 PM

SS

*Julie,
Beautiful. 🥰*

Susan Steffen-LaRue - September 23, 2020 at 07:00 PM