



Robert Dale Riskin

March 26, 1950 - September 20, 2024

ROBERT RISKIN

(Rob, Bob, Bobby)

March 26, 1950 - September 20, 2024

Age 74, of Minneapolis, passed away on September 20, 2024, after a recent diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. Preceded in death by parents, Ida and Harry Riskin. Survived by sister, Stephanie Sanderson (David); life partner, Pamela Lehan; daughters, Laura Riskin, Briana Goetzen (Tom); grandchild, Gavin Goetzen; former spouse, Rosemary Riskin; nieces and nephews; and children and grandchildren from blended family.

He was noble, kind and generous, a true gentleman who was loved and respected by family, friends, neighbors and colleagues near and far. He chose to spend his remaining time visiting with those he cared about, relaxing on the deck near the tall trees, and satisfying his adventurous foodie spirit at new breakfast and pastry shops while he still could. His mind stayed strong until the end, and he felt at peace and filled with gratitude for the life he had lived and for those who graced his path along the way.

He enjoyed having a pipe or an occasional cigar with a good glass of Irish whiskey. He was all about gadgets; if it peeled, grated, opened or sliced, he had to have it! And he loved to collect silver dollars and old-fashioned wooden

toys to share with his grandson.

Growing up in Brookline, Massachusetts, Rob attended Devotion Grade School and Brookline High School, where he developed lifelong friendships. It was there that he developed his dapper style. He favored bow ties, plaid berets, vests, and herringbone jackets. After high school, he moved to Minnesota, where he started his family and earned his bachelor's degree in general studies at the University of Minnesota. This set him on his course as a life-long learner with interest in human resources and human behavior. He developed into a seasoned human resources executive who held leadership positions at banking and manufacturing companies and for a hospital system, later working as an executive search consultant and leader in outplacement.

Drawing on those experiences, he became a self-published author of a book to give courage to those in between job opportunities who were looking to change career paths, and he went back to school for his master's degree and became a marriage and family therapy coach.

In retirement and up to his last days, Rob served as a member on the UCare Board of Directors, a role that brought him much fulfillment and a deep sense of purpose.

In his personal life, he savored his time with his life partner Pam, their daughters, and their extended families, celebrating holidays and milestones both in Minnesota and Massachusetts. Rob and Pam traveled and shared their hopes and dreams as kindred spirits.

He will be greatly missed and remembered with smiles, laughter and appreciation for the gifts he left with his spirit of generosity and consideration of others.

Private remembrance gathering. Memorials preferred to Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Tribute Wall

SF

“ Rob, I met you in 1996 through HR channels and remaining friends was one of my most treasured relationships in the community. Tim and I were so devastated when you called to tell us of the diagnosis and we have always loved you and Pam from Women's Club days. Sending your family so much love. We have been in Peru and are heartbroken to have missed that you moved to heaven. With love,
Tim Higgins and Sally Field

Sally Field - October 16, 2024 at 05:19 PM

JA

“ This is such a lovely tribute to such a kind and wonderful human. Remembering when he rescued me in 2020 bringing some gas down to the Southside, enough that I was able to drive far enough away to fill up. Such a huge thing to me and he & Pam did it with such ease. A huge help. Such a kind person. Sending you so much love Pam.



Jana - October 03, 2024 at 03:19 PM

CB

“ I served on the Ucare Board of Directors with Robert. Every interaction with him always brought a smile to my face. Whether it was a warm hug or squeeze of my hand. A short message on Facebook asking about my family or health. A few minutes passing before Board meetings or social gatherings to hear about my latest adventures with my family and animals. Despite our age difference we had very similar passions when it came to community. He made a lasting impression on my life and his imprint will not be forgotten. Sending light and love to his family as you celebrate his memory.

Charity Bennett - October 03, 2024 at 11:43 AM

DB

“ Rob and I have been friends since pre school and shared an abundance of good and meaningful times. Not only did we attend the same public schools, we were roommates at UMass and I was his best man at his wedding. I was lucky enough to remain friends and we saw each other at least once a year. I will miss our time together, whether it was on Cape Cod or in Minneapolis. We also appreciate his introducing us to Pam who will always remain a close friend. I already miss him.

David Bernstein - October 03, 2024 at 11:37 AM

NK

i knew Bobby since kindergarten as Devotion School. He was what we called in those days “a good kid”. Fun, kind and very popular with the girls! May his memory always be for a blessing! (nancy Kaufman)

nancy Kaufman - October 04, 2024 at 11:27 PM

RC

“ Bobby was a life long friend since Brookline days. He was a foreign exchange student while at BHS when he spent time in the Philippines. Although we lost touch for a longtime , we reconnected on FB and enjoyed sharing thoughts on life , politics and other things. May Bobby’s memory and name always be a blessing.
Robert G. Cohen

robert g cohen - October 03, 2024 at 11:23 AM

HM

“ As CEO of UCare, it was my honor and privilege to work with Robert as one of our most active Board members.

Robert's commitment to UCare's mission, members and employees was second to none. That commitment was evident in everything he did - every day, all the time. Robert brought tremendous wisdom, professionalism, passion, and service to the Board. We are grateful for his leadership and service, and we know that his impact will live on.

My condolences to Robert's family and friends who lost such an amazing person far too soon. May his memory bring you comfort.

Hilary Marden-Resnik - October 03, 2024 at 10:57 AM

MC

“ *I felt so lucky to have gotten to know the both of you. Such great neighbors so involved in community and so connected to the world. Sending you love and my sincerest condolences for the last of Bob. Peace, my friend.*

Mary Cassidy - October 03, 2024 at 10:46 AM