



Michael Otto Creighton

October 26, 1941 - October 31, 2021

Michael Otto Creighton, 80, died peacefully on October 31st surrounded by loved ones. The second of three brothers, he was born in Waukegan, Illinois to James and Helen Creighton. He received his Bachelors from Cornell College, where he also met his beloved wife Susan. Otto, as he was known to many, got his PhD at Iowa State University and went on to teach Sociology at Oregon State, Colorado Women's College, Northland College and Western Oregon State University.

Otto made breakfast for his three children every day before school and also on weekends. His waffles were widely regarded as being among the best in the Pacific Northwest. He did the family laundry until the day he died, and was known to have strong opinions about how to pair socks. Otto was loyal and generous. He was always happy to help friends move house and strangers push-start a stalled car.

Otto was a lifelong athlete. In college, he played basketball and ran track and cross country. In his thirties, he ran marathons. When his knees no longer allowed him to run, he cycled, hiked, and hauled grandchildren on his shoulders. He loved the open sky and the open road: the moors in Plymouth, England; the Mount Jefferson Wilderness; the Southwest; US Route 2 where it passes over the continental divide.

People say he was gentle, but Otto was also stubborn when it came to his beliefs about justice and war. He helped organize the daily peace vigil outside the Benton County Courthouse beginning in 2001 and attended until his health no longer permitted. That is where you would find him most every day from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Otto loved books and ideas. He volunteered for years at the Benton County Library, and he never stopped reading widely and thinking deeply.

Otto is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Susan; their three children and spouses, Sarah, Mike, Kathy, Michael and Mridula; their grandchildren, Dylan, Dunnavan, Alexa, Surya, Akshay and Salima; and his two brothers, Tom and Jim.

Tribute Wall

DN

“ I remember when he watched me and my brother play in the backyard in the sprinkler in the summer, and I will remember that until the day that I die. -Dylan nichols

Dylan Nichols - April 22 at 10:42 PM

DU

“ I remember watching a cubs game with him and the cubs were playing the marlins, who got two grand slams. one of my fondest memories and one of my last ones. Much love, Dunnavan.

dunnavan - October 22, 2024 at 01:39 PM

JD

“ To Susan,Kathy,Sarah,Mike Jnr. and all of their families, I am so sorry to learn of the passing of Otto. I remember all of the laughs we shared ,together with Susan and their girls.The brilliant road trips that he took his Brit mates on. I especially remember walking with Otto in the Arches N.P. We sat near Fragile Arch. We didn't say much, there was no need.But I will be eternally grateful for him taking me to such a wonderful place. I know that words will not take any of the pain and grief away at this time ,but maybe knowing that Otto was so well-loved and respected will help all of you, in time, to look back in time and smile! Love and cuddles to all of you from across the ocean! John X

John Dewdney - November 04, 2021 at 05:41 AM