



Robert Houston

June 6, 1927 - October 16, 2010

Robert J. Houston

A Celebration of Life will be held for Robert John Houston at on 2:00 pm October 23, 2010 at McHenry Funeral Home in Corvallis.

He passed away Saturday, October 16th peacefully in his sleep from complications of diabetes. He was 83.

Robert was born June 6, 1927 in Los Angeles, to Robert John Houston and Sylvia Houston. He attended Kenton Elementary School in Portland, then Jefferson High school before enlisting in the Marine Corps during World War II. After the war, he attended Vanport College. He left Vanport to earn a Bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon in 1950, followed by a Master's of Education degree from the University of Portland, a Masters of Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley and finally, in 1964 he earned a Doctorate of Education from the University of Oregon. In between pursuing his educational degrees, he taught at various high schools throughout Lane County. In addition, he taught at the Northern Montana College in Havre, Montana. He also worked at the Sonoma County Public Health Department in Santa Rosa, California, where he met Joyce Luppi. They married in 1971. The couple moved to Oregon and Robert was employed as an Associate Professor of Public Health at Oregon State University. He stayed at the university for 27 years, primarily because he enjoyed public health at OSU and Corvallis so much. In addition to his work at OSU, he also taught driver's education and developed driver's education

programs—making him a highly respected leader in driver's instruction throughout the State of Oregon.

After his retirement from OSU in 1993, he continued teaching driver's education. He retired in Harrisburg from teaching driver's ed, but stayed involved with social groups in Corvallis and the Oregon Alumni Association. One project that became a passion for him was working with the Harrisburg Parks Committee to develop a park in Harrisburg. During his years at OSU, he was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes and became a severe diabetic in his later life.

Robert is survived by his wife Joyce Houston, his daughter Susan, his son Tom, his sister Shirley and his brother Bill. Memorial donations in Robert's name may be directed to the Heartland Humane Society in care of McHenry Funeral Home 206 NW 5th St., Corvallis, OR 97330. A Funeral Service will be held at 2:00 pm on Saturday, October 23, 2010 at McHenry Funeral Home. Interment will take place at Willamette National Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

DF

“ To the family of Bob Houston. He was one of my two mentors for my masters degree at OSU. Truly a great and compassionate man. I owe so much of my career successes to him. He will live forever in my heart and my life. I continue to teach so much from what I learned from him. I am so sorry I was out of the state and did not know of his passing. Please know I would have been there had I known. My prayers are with your family...

*Del Freeman Retired Driver Education Specialist Oregon
Department of Education*

Del Freeman - November 01, 2010 at 11:23 PM

MS

“ I first met Dr. Houston when I took a Safety in Education class in 1969. He made us do a big project where we had to take the class on a field trip and there had to be goodies (the sweeter the better) to eat. Well my project partner and I took the class to a farm and we had milk and boiled eggs just to give Dr. Houston a bad time. He thought it was so funny. I later worked at OSU in the media center and worked Dr. Houston quite often until he retired. This last July I saw Dr. Houston at the Corvallis Manor when visiting someone else. Later I found his room and we sat and reminisced about the good ole days at OSU. He remembered the class I took from him and he was pretty sure he still had my project paper stored at his house. We laughed and laughed. What a wonderful visit we had. I am so glad I took the time to see him.

Always loved his smile, his laugh and his great sense of humor. He will be missed.

Marilyn Schmidt - October 31, 2010 at 11:11 PM

SP

“ Celebrate the life of this wonderful man. I had the pleasure of knowing and working with Bob through his work with the Oregon Traffic Safety Education Association and his work at OSU. Bob dedicated himself to making Driver Education in Oregon a better program. He worked hard to make teacher training programs available to the Driver Education teachers all around the state. He was also such a funny guy with a really dry sense of humor. Bob will be remembered by hundreds of teachers from Oregon and by the thousands of students and athletes he touched throughout his teaching and coaching career. It is an honor to have known this man.

Stan Porter - October 23, 2010 at 11:52 AM

KG

“ *Earliest memories are exuberant "horsey back rides" on my uncle's back. He had an infectious smile and modest bashful warmth. He lived in exotic places like California and Montana, or so they seemed to me at the time. He proudly drove his red Volkswagen bug purchased in Germany, although I would hardly have labeled him a hippy.*

I saw him on a more regular basis when he became my landlord while at Oregon State. I helped him literally scrape grease off kitchen walls and ceiling of one rental house, not mine. He liked sharing the story of the house with Chinese students behind us. They were in constant need of the Roto-Rooter Man. Uncle Bob finally asked the Roto-Rooter Man what was clogging things up so regularly. The reply was "feathers"??? Upon investigation he found chickens roosting in the attic that were regularly killed, eviscerated, and plucked for fresh eating, just like home! Disposal of unwanted parts, including feathers, was conveniently accomplished with American indoor plumbing. Uncle Bob provided a real life health lesson to these foreign students as well as a cultural lesson. The students provided a good story.

In more recent years I admired my uncle's positive attitude despite a living situation that is not part of the definition of "golden years". His mind and wit remained sharp until his death.

I believe my grandparents will be waiting for him and Grandma will be hoping he managed to sneak a box of See's Chocolates for her. With fond memories, your niece, Kathryn

Kathryn Goodwin - October 21, 2010 at 05:18 PM