



Robert Ruth

December 6, 1943 - May 16, 2022

Dr. Robert Douglas “Bob” Ruth was born on December 6, 1943 and passed away on May 16, 2022 peacefully with his family. The only child of Robert Adam and Elizabeth Dobbins Ruth, he was raised in Lockport, New York. He received his Bachelors of Art degree in Sociology from SUNY, his Masters Degree and Doctorate from Duke University. He is survived by his wife Joyce, his son Rob, his son’s wife Stephanie, his granddaughter Emma.

Bob and Joyce met in 1978 as Joyce had just moved to Charlotte and was a new professor at UNC Charlotte School of Nursing. They both had so much in common as professors and they were married in 1980. At that time they became a family of three with their son Rob who was the ring bearer at their wedding. Bob loved family and doing things together. They enjoyed going on vacations across the US and Bob was also an assistant scout master while Rob was in scouting. Bob was very pleased when Rob met Stephanie their daughter in law. When their first and only granddaughter was born, Bob and Joyce were overjoyed that they had a new “Baby Ruth” and they both handed out Baby Ruth candy bars at work.

Bob started teaching Sociology at Davidson College in 1971 and continued to teach for 44 years. As a professor he cared about his community and researched counter terrorism so that he could help local, state and federal law enforcement. Throughout his career he served as an NC Criminal Justice Commissioner, a member of the Southeastern Criminal Justice Association and received the NC Criminal Justice Educator of the year in 1993.

Bob was an active member of Davidson United Methodist Church, He attended Adult Bible Study Sunday School Class for over 30 years, served as an usher and as a communion servant. He also routinely met weekly with a men’s group for breakfast that included many members of his Sunday school class.

A Celebration of Bob's life will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, May 23 at Davidson United Methodist Church Chapel.

In lieu of flowers the family would ask that you consider donations to Novant Hospice, Davidson United Methodist Church and St. Jude Children's Hospital.

James Funeral Home is assisting the family, online condolences may be made at www.jamesfuneralhomekn.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 23. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Davidson United Methodist Church - Chapel
233 S Main St
Davidson, NC 28036

Tribute Wall

LM

“ Our deepest condolences to Joyce, Rob, Stephanie and Emma. Our thoughts and prayers are with each of you as you experience the loss of a husband, father, father in law and grandfather. We know that you were the center of Bob's universe and he loved each of you with all of his heart. His passing creates an absence for each of you but remember he is now with Jesus and is experiencing eternal life. Rest assured each of you will be reunited with Bob at some time in the future and you will rejoice in this reunion.

Although distance physically separates us you are in our hearts, thoughts and prayers during this time. We know without reservation God is with each of you individually and collectively as a family and he will comfort you.

Lynn and Linda

Lynn A. Miller - May 19 at 05:26 PM

DA

“ Very sorry to see this. Bob was a professor at Davidson for the many years I repped textbooks to the university community in NC, SC, VA. We got to know each other well over 40 years and I enjoyed our interactions. Condolences to his family. A very nice man and he will be missed.

Dave - May 19 at 01:49 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Ruth.



May 18 at 01:43 PM

KL

“ Condolences to Bob's family Joyce, Rob, Stephanie and Emma. My thoughts and prayers are with each of you during this time of loss. May memories sustain you and give you comfort during this time of grief. Know that Bob is now in the arms of Jesus and is well and peaceful. My utmost sympathy to each of you. I am with you in spirit and thinking of you. May God's presence be with you during the upcoming days.

Karhie Legge - May 17 at 07:00 PM

CA

“ I remember Bob sitting with me after my first chemo treatment. He offered comfort and assured me I would feel better one day. Once, he generously let me use his brand new riding lawn mower to tackle my grass. He was a kind, gentle man who was always friendly to this neighbor. I will be holding Joyce in the light.

Carol - May 17 at 11:21 AM