



Robert Niles

October 13, 1935 - January 4, 2010

On Monday, January 4, 2010, Robert Olin Niles, 74, of Phoenixville, PA, died peacefully surrounded by his loving family. During the nine years Bob battled his fatal lung disease; his response was to celebrate life and create lasting, happy memories by treating all 25 immediate family members to an annual vacation to mountain resorts, Caribbean cruises, and seashore retreats such as Bar Harbor and Cape May. When Bob retired from ABC-TV in May, 1999, he was Vice President and Director of Engineering for all ABC-TV stations. Each title carried its own set of responsibilities. According to Tom Hankinson, who formerly reported to Bob and is current Director of Technical Standards Development for ABC-TV: "Bob was a soft-spoken, well informed gentleman who always operated with a sense of personal integrity." Hankinson recalled how even the hard core New York labor negotiators trusted Bob to deal with them fairly. In 1988, Bob was a founding member of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Technical Committee of the Advanced Television Technology Center. Its work focused on the development of high definition television and later on helping the consumer electronic industry transition to digital TV. Great minds and greater egos kept the proceedings energized and when it was over a decade later, the members presented Bob with a plaque crediting him with being "the peacemaker, always working for the good of others." In his leisure time Bob was an accomplished amateur genealogist and traced his family's American roots to 1678 when an ancestor, John Olin, was kidnapped as he walked down the street of his Welsh hometown and forced

aboard a British Man-O-War. Upon arriving in Boston Harbor, the 14-year old jumped ship and from this penniless beginning managed to make his way to East Greenwich, Rhode Island where he found work, married and began the lineage of generations which continue today with Bob's own children. American History was a complimentary interest of Bob's and, Sons of the American Revolution was just one of similar groups which voted him into membership. Long a patron of charitable and cultural organizations, Bob's greatest joy was the 30-plus years during which he served on various boards at the Methodist Home for Children, a multi-human services organization. He presided as Chair of these boards for many years and contributed to planning many changes as it evolved over the years. He was forced to retire due to failing health last year. In recognition of his contributions of finances, time and talent, when the Methodist Home's chapel was expanded and refurbished some months ago, it was rededicated as The Robert Olin Niles Chapel of the Four Children. As patriarch of his family, Bob's abiding love and quiet wisdom nurtured respect for self and others within this large clan. Survivors include his devoted wife Kathleen (Dougherty), sons Brian (Linda) of Haddonfield, NJ and Tim (Mindy) of Hampstead, MD; his three step-daughters: Margie (Bob) Harper, of Delaware County; Michelle (Bob) Judge and Tracey (John) Simonelli, of Chester County. Bob took special delight in his 10 grandchildren who range in age from 8 thru 21 years old. Other survivors include Bob's sister, Susan (David) Bonser of Saylorsburg, PA. Funeral Services will be held at the Berwyn United Methodist Church, 140 Waterloo Avenue, Berwyn, PA 19311 on Friday, January 8, 2009 at 11:00AM. Officiating will be the Rev. Philip I. Ponce. Interment is private. Friends will be received from 6:00 - 8:00 PM Thursday evening or from 10:00 - 10:45AM Friday morning at the Church. Anyone wishing to make a contribution in Bob's memory may send this to either: The Berwyn United Methodist Church at the above address or to the Methodist Home for Children, 4300 Monument Road, Philadelphia, PA 19131. The Campbell - Ennis - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc., Main Street at Fifth Avenue, Phoenixville, PA is in charge of the arrangements. Condolences may

be made online at www.PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com

Tribute Wall

C.

“ My prayers are with the family. It is never enough time to have someone we love and cherish in our lives. Once they have left us the time passed seems so short of a period. Please take some comfort from the scriptures to realize that it is not God's purpose for us to live a short while and die. His purpose was for us to live forever on a Paradise earth. Friend! 1 Cor. 3:9 enemy death going away Rev 21:4 Death no more Matt 6:9,10 Kingdom on earth as in heaven to bring changes for all mankind, government by God and ruled by his Son, Jesus Christ

C.Smith - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

MM

“ Aunt Kathleen - We were so sorry to hear about Uncle Bob. He was a wonderful man and a great partner with you. We will keep you and your family in our prayers. Love, Mary, Brendan, Conor and Maura

Mary McLaughlin - marymgm@comcast.net - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

TG

“ Dear Kathleen; Knowing your faith in God will help you through this time of grief. Thanking God for having someone so wonderful to love. Thinking of You with Special Sympathy Tillie and Gene

Tillie And Gene - ggscholl@aol.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

PP

“ Bob was always a gentleman and a pleasure to do business with. Everyone who dealt with him will consider his passing as a loss to the industry as well as a personal loss. May God rest his soul.

Paul G Raymond / AFCCE - pgr1943@comcast.net - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

KZ

“ I took care of Bob and Kathleen over last summer through Bayada, they were my first charge. We instantly became friends, I very much enjoyed my days with them. We had tea parties, card games, lots of yummy desserts and even a trip to the zoo! I will always remember my time with them fondly. Kathleen, I am so for your loss, he was a wonderful man, and I am glad I had the privelege of getting to know you both. Much love, Kendra Zadrejko

Kendra Zadrejko - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

DW

“ Kathleen and Family Dear heart, know that our prayers are with you. His love will comfort you. Dolly and Bill

Dolly Hargadon Schiebel - willylilly@comcast.net - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

DP

“ Although I never met Mr. Niles, I could feel how much he was loved and cared about by the Harper family. I also had the pleasure of seeing a likeness of Mr. and Mrs. Niles displayed lovingly as the backround on my partner's computer. He will surely be missed by all of you. Please accept my sincerest condolences for your loss.

Dolores Porri - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

HH

“ I have known Bob for many years. He was a fellow broadcaster. Bob was a gem of a man. He was highly respected within the broadcast industry. He was a person to look up to for guidance advice and trust. He was a gentleman. His was a splendid character, and we will miss him.

Harvey Arnold - harnold2@gmail.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

CW

“ Dear Kathleen; At this time of your loss, I hope you find comfort in the thought that Bob your loved one is in a place of peace, and that you by your loving care made a difference through a very difficult time. With Our Deepest Sympathy Chuck and Terry White

Chuck and Terry White - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM

JJ

“ Please accept my condolences on your loss. On several occasions I had the pleasure of speaking with Mr. Niles while working at Channel 6. Our conversation were always warm, professional and pleasant. I remember seeing him smiling in the hallways of the round building on City Avenue when I was hired in 1998. Most Respectfully, John Messano Assistant Business Manager WPVI-TV / 6ABC

John Messano - john.messano@abc.com - July 19, 2013 at 08:37 AM