

In Memory

This page celebrates the lives of those who passed away recently. Please inform David Sommer by email (dsommer7@usewireless.com) of anyone I've missed.

2020 Remembrances

Dr. Robert Benjamin

Robert "Bob" Benjamin died April 15, 2020, in sunny San Diego, under the loving care of his daughters and hospice. He escaped the Corona virus but died from complications of a broken hip. Robert was born on July 4, 1924 and grew up in Pipestone eldest child of Walter G. and Mabel Benjamin. He contracted and survived Polio, weathered the great Depression, and developed a life-long love of hard work and learning. At Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, he earned a BA. His years there were interrupted by World war II. He became a Navy pilot and navigator and flew in the Pacific. Bob returned from service and married Betty Mae Waidelich on June 7, 1947. Betty supported the young couple while Robert attended medical school at University of Minnesota. They moved to Oregon for his Residency, then to Minnesota. After Robert joined a small group practice, the St Louis park Medical Center. Over the course of his career he contributed to its expansion into a large health care provider. He mentored many young doctors, taught surgery at the University of Minnesota, authored books on surgery, and served on the board of the clinic. He believed that family planning was a basic right and became an expert in vasectomy surgery. He offered Thursday evening procedures so men so they could easily recover missing only one day of work. Along with their activism, Bob and Betty shared a zest for life. Bob built a wilderness cabin on the shore of Lake Superior. Later the isolated retreat was traded for a cabin on Madeline Island. Bob served on the Wilderness Preserve board there, as well as pursuing photography, chess, gardening, tennis, hiking and boating. Their love of travel took them around the globe. Many road trips included visits to friends and family, After Betty died, Bob married Cathy Coult. She shared his love of books, music, and travel until dementia overwhelmed her. Bob is survived by four sibiings Walter Majorie Benjamin, Martha Willis Unke, Roger and Nancy Benjamin, and Mary Louise Bowen.

Bob was an enthusiastic member of Senior Tennis from 1997.

Dr. George E. Burbie

George Burbie was with Senior Tennis all too short a time. But several of us remember his warm and friendly nature, ready smile, and enthusiasm.



From humble beginnings in the segregated South to earning a Ph.D. at a world class university, George Edward Burbie's determination knew no bounds. Driven by compassion and a desire for social reform, he worked throughout his life to create a more just and equitable world.

Up until his final days, George's wit, charisma, generosity of spirit and hearty laugh charmed all around him. His vitality and love of life convinced family and friends that George would have a long and active retirement, but cancer had its own plans.

In the spring of 2018, George was diagnosed with stomach cancer. He immediately began a chemotherapy regime that continued for more than two years. The treatment gained him precious time to connect with his large extended family and accomplish personal goals of writing autobiographical essays and compiling decades of genealogy work.

But the tumor grew and the cancer treatments eventually lost their effectiveness. George Edward Burbie died Aug. 26, 2020 at home with his wife Karen by his side.

George was born on July 18, 1945 in the tiny Arkansas community of Round Pond to Lucinda Burbie and Vennie Turner.

George grew up among a sprawling family of aunts and uncles, cousins and siblings. He was called on to watch over his younger sisters and quickly became a protective, take-charge big brother.

Describing himself as a born-in-the-womb Baptist, George was active in church. There he developed oratory and leadership skills and a spiritual foundation that became a source of strength and peace for the entirety of his life.

When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1954 that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional,

George was 8 years old, but his rural Arkansas schools remained segregated through his secondary years. A bright student, George skipped a grade and graduated high school at age 16. He became the first in his family to attend college, starting at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, a historically Black university.

As a young adult, George felt called to the ministry. After much deliberation, he chose to pursue a career in social work, knowing his life's work would always involve serving others. George earned a bachelor's degree in social work from California State Long Beach in 1966. Throughout his life, he remained devoted to his Baptist faith community.

In 1971, he earned a master's degree in social welfare from the University of California Los Angeles. One of his proudest accomplishments was earning a Ph.D. in social welfare and public health from UCLA in 1983, writing his dissertation on the social and economic consequences of delayed hospital discharges.

In 1996, the couple moved to Dublin, Ohio as George was promoted to Vice President of the Ohio Division of the American Cancer Society. Their son Jacob was born in 1997.

Three years later, the family moved to Eagan, Minnesota where George would live the rest of his life. The final years of George's career were spent overseeing teams of social workers and counselors at Ceridian Corporation.

Throughout his life, George was an avid sports fan, following countless professional teams and players. He coached his sons' soccer teams. Inspired by Arthur Ashe, he played tennis regularly until the final months of his life.

Writing poetry and personal essays was a lifelong pursuit. Following in the oral history tradition of his ancestors, George's storytelling was brought to life by his remarkable ability to recall details from decades past. He would also recite bible verses and lyrics from favorite songs that would perfectly capture the moment.

George was a tenacious investigator of his family history. Through extensive research of census records and genealogy websites, George pieced together an ancestry that had largely been lost. He shared his findings at family reunions, passing down the details and records to future generations.

George is survived by his spouse Karen and son Jacob, his former spouse Gail and son Derric, and siblings Diane Burbie, Delois Burbie-Love (John), Joe Turner (Cardella), Mildred Cooperwood and Mary Hawkins.

Barbara Jo Hagen

Barbara Jo was a beloved mother, grandmother, aunt, friend. Barbara Jo Hagen lived life to its fullest and was a fashion icon with a special love of sparkles. She brightened the lives of everyone around her.



Barbara was born November 8, 1936 in Hopkins, MN. Being the youngest of six you know what they say: "whatever the baby wants, the baby gets" and the daughter of Floy and M.B. "Punchy" Hagen, Mayor of Hopkins, Barbara always knew how to have fun. Anyone who knew her felt her energy and love.

Her gift to her children was being an example of how to show up, continually bettering herself and encouraging her children and grandchildren to do the same. Barbara had real grit; she very rarely gave up. As her license plate stated, "IM410S" she loved tennis. She was fiercely competitive and hated to lose. But then, there was always another match, and revenge was sweet! Just ask her many opponents, often half her age, that fell victim to her on the court.

Barbara passed away peacefully at home on June 13, 2020. She is survived by her oldest brother, Richard Hagen; her children: Diana Neal, Gregory (Tracy Schaffzin) Odland, Lynn (John) Waldron, Amy (John) Klaers; and several grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends.

Gregory James

Headrick

Oh how we'll miss your big hearty laugh, your big bear hugs, your fun teasing and friendliness to all. Doing exactly as you wanted, when you wanted, but always ready for a tennis game, no matter what the time... We will always say your name, Greg. To your children Zac (Kelsey), and Leah and your beloved granddaughters, Blake and Hope, and future grandchildren: stories of your Pops will guide you, make you laugh and provide life lessons about accepting change,



enjoying life, doing your best, and taking care of family. Greg died unexpectedly due to complications of MSSA staph infection and strokes on June 3, 2020. He was born on May 29, 1946 in Detroit, Michigan.

Fred Jurewicz, 1941-2020

Fred was President of Senior Tennis 2007-09 and again 2011-12. He was always kind and calm, exhibiting the best kind of leadership for the club.



Fred graduated from Beloit Catholic High School (WI) in 1959 then attended The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse where he earned a BA degree, with a major in art and a minor in Spanish. A lifelong educator, Fred landed his first teaching job in Lancaster, WI, where he taught art and began the Spanish language curriculum. Additionally, he was the faculty advisor for the Art Club and Spanish Club and served as an assistant coach for football, basketball, cross country and golf. As he did throughout his life, Fred used his summer breaks to provide his gifts to others as he painted houses around Lancaster as well as conduct summer pottery classes with his high school students. While Fred eventually shifted his professional career from teaching to financial planning, focusing much of his clientele on educators to help secure their futures, Fred consistently found ways to use his creativity to enhance and educate the small corners of the world in which he engaged.

In later years, Fred developed his tennis skills, and eventually also pickle ball.

We will miss Fred's generosity, leadership and good nature.

Caryl Minnetti, 1936-2020



Caryl won the 2010 Jack Dow Award. STPC honors our club founder, Jack Dow, each year by presenting a traveling trophy to a member whose attitude, character, sportsmanship, enthusiasm and service best typify the ideals of STPC.

The following is drawn from the story about Caryl in the [April, 2010 Newsletter](#).

Caryl started tennis after age 40 and immediately loved the game and continues to find it exciting and great fun. Caryl says that in addition to the exercise, the mental game of tennis keeps players sharp and the required concentration is a great way to get away from everyday stress. Caryl served on the Senior Tennis Board and was new member's chair for four or five years. She continues as a team captain for a great mixed-doubles group which plays at 98th Street in Bloomington.

The Kalamazoo, Michigan native studied and worked in Paris, France after college. After settling in Minnesota, she had a 34-year career as a French teacher in the Golden Valley and Hopkins High Schools. Retirement brought new interests. She volunteers as a programmer on Bonjour Minnesota every Sunday from 8:30-9:30 PM on radio station KFAI, 90.3 FM in Minneapolis and 106.7 FM in St. Paul. She announces, in French, old and current French popular music which she chooses each week and plays, interviews French speaking celebrities passing through town and announces local events of interest to Francophiles. This avid traveler volunteers weekly at the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport at Travelers Assistance. She says it's the only job that she's ever had where she can tell people where to go.

Barbara Grace 'Buzzy' (Wackerman) Perry

Barb was born May 15, 1922. She died Dec. 31, 2020, at age 98. Felix A. Perry, her husband of 77 years, preceded her by two days. Survived by children, Philip (Darla) of Athens Ohio, Joanne (David) Cosgrove of



Bloomington, Richard of Bloomington, and daughter-in-law Linda Perry of Roseville; and many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

Barb was employed as Secretary, League of Women Voters - Minneapolis for 15 years. Loving wife & homemaker, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt, and friend. Enjoyed wilderness canoe camping, downhill & cross-country skiing in the Swiss Alps and on many mountains in the U.S., golf, tennis, walking, swimming, and ball room dancing with Felix. Avid volunteer, world traveler, and book reader.

To learn much more about Barb and Felix, look for numerous articles by and about the Felixes. Click on News, then on Tennis Times Index. Then search for "Felix". Plenty to amuse and inform you about these two important members.

Felix Anthony Perry

Felix Perry was born April 8, 1919 in Minneapolis. He died Dec. 29, 2020, at age 101. Barbara, his wife of 77 years, survived him by two days. Survived by sons, Philip (Darla) of Athens OH, and Richard of Bloomington;



daughter, Joanne (David) Cosgrove of Bloomington; daughter-in-law, Linda (Michael) Perry of Roseville; grandsons, Andrew (Margaret) Cosgrove, Benjamin (Elissa) Cosgrove, Anthony (Astrid) Perry, and Nicholas Perry; and many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

Felix graduated from Minneapolis John Marshall High School and received a bachelor's degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1942. Employed as an engineering manager of aircraft structures

and interior accommodations by Northwest Airlines for 48 years (1942-1991) on all aircraft from the DC-3 to the AirBus A330, with two years intervening as an Officer in the Naval Air Transport Service during WWII. Enjoyed tennis with the Senior Tennis Players Club, golf (Hawaii many times), in-line skating (especially around Lake Harriet in Minneapolis), biking, downhill skiing (especially in the Alps and western U.S.), cross-country skiing, swimming and diving, walking, kindergarten volunteering and non-fiction book & periodical reading. Favorite activity into their 90's was supper club dancing with his wife to all rhythms, especially Latin and swing. Active as a youth and as an adult in the Boy Scouts/Sea Scouts. Active member of Mayflower Church.