



Robert "Bob" Lynn Curtis

November 17, 1933 - March 7, 2021

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East Wenatchee, Washington

Robert L. "Bob" Curtis passed away March 7, 2021 at the age of 87 following a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's. Bob was born on November 17, 1933 to Bernard and Elouise (Troutman) Curtis in Wenatchee WA. Bob was raised in Cashmere and attended Cashmere schools graduating in 1951 from Cashmere High School. In 1952, Bob married Patty Pobst (Patty Christensen) and together they raised 4 children in their 25-year marriage.

Bob attended Pacific Lutheran College, graduating in 1955 with a degree in Business administration. He was a strong supporter and alumni of PLU and received the Distinguished Alumni award. In 1956 Bob moved his young family to East Wenatchee and joined his father Bud in opening and managing Curtis Thriftway. The business flourished for many years and allowed Bob to pursue public service through the formation of the Eastmont Jr. Chamber of Commerce, the East Wenatchee Jaycees, of which he was a charter member. He remained active in that organization and became President of the Washington State Jaycees in 1963 and later to become the National President of the US Jaycees.

Bob became active in local politics and in 1968 he was elected to represent the 12th district in the Washington State legislature. Also, during the early 70's he was active with the Washington State Food Dealers Association and served as the state president in 1971-72. In 1976 he closed Curtis Thriftway and opened

Curtis-C Travel in East Wenatchee. His love of travel created many wonderful travel adventures around the world. In 1986 he partnered with Dr. Bruce Barritt of the WSU Tree Fruit organization to lead tours of orchardists and nursery owners around the world on annual International Tree Fruit Study Tours. They travelled and studied growing techniques in the United Kingdom, The Netherlands, France, Italy, New Zealand, Australia, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Japan, Chile, Argentina, Brazil and China. In all, they conducted 13 tours and escorted hundreds of growers, making life-long friends in every country they visited.

In September of 1996, Bob married his beloved "Lady Vera" (Vera Mays). She became his great traveling ambassador on his many tours and made hospitality her trademark: between the two of them making everyone they met feel welcomed and important. Bob and Vera were very active in the Washington St. Applearian organization, Bob joining in 1966, and in 1999 Bob was named Applearian Chancellor and "Lady Vera" served alongside him. Recognizing both of them for the many hours of volunteerism they were rewarded with the Lehman Johnson award in 2008 for outstanding contributions to the Washington State Apple Blossom Association.

Bob was an active lifetime member of Grace Lutheran Church both in Cashmere and Wenatchee. He was active in the Association of WA Business, the East Wenatchee Rotary club, and was named a Paul Harris fellow of Rotary International.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Bud (Bernard) and Eloise Curtis, his sister, Carolyn McCart, his brother Richard (Dick) Curtis, and numerous aunts and uncles. He is survived by his wife Vera of 24 years, his children, Joyce (Jon) Vognild, Robin (Jeff) Curtis, Janie (Ron) Dymond, and Brian (Ardys) Curtis, stepchildren Brad Sterley and Brynda Moore. Sisters in-law Neena Fritz and Nadya Curtis. He enjoyed his 10 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

The family will hold a private celebration of his life with interment at Grace Lutheran Memorial Garden.

Memorials may be made in Bob's (Robert L Curtis) name to the Wenatchee Chapter, Washington State Alzheimer's Association, 19031 33rd Ave, W #301, Lynnwood, WA 98036, "for chapter only" in memo line.

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation friend, Ginni Hinitz, the many staff members for their loving care at Cashmere Care Center, Heritage Memorial Chapel, and numerous others for their many acts of kindness, prayers, calls and messages expressing their love during this long goodbye.

Tribute Wall

HC

“ *From Ken Martin
CEO Cashmere Valley Bank (retired)*

As a kid growing up in East Wenatchee, I knew of Bob Curtis from his entertaining radio ads for Curtis Thriftway.

My first face-to-face encounter with Bob was when he was the speaker at the Cashmere Rotary Club and I was the senior boy representative to the club. I clearly remember thinking: "I want to be him when I grow up."

So it was a great honor when I was selected to be his Legislative intern during the 1971 legislative session. While watching Bob chair the Business and Professions committee as an effect and fair leader, he became my role model. Bob was liked and respected on both sides of the isle.

I was also honored when he asked me to serve as his campaign manager. I will always remember driving with him and George Sellar up Pine Canyon to Waterville late on election night to watch the Douglas County returns being tabulated. Politics seemed more fun in those days.

Bob Curtis was my role model, mentor, confidant, and friend. Our community has lost a very special person.

Heritage Memorial Chapel - March 19, 2021 at 02:34 PM

HC

“ *From Ken:*

Vera,

So sorry for your loss.

After we talked, so many memories flashed through my head. I was surprised at the detail I could remember from my many interactions with Bob.

I hope my comments meet your needs.

Sincerely,

Ken

Heritage Memorial Chapel - March 19, 2021 at 02:29 PM

ML

“ Vera and Family of Bob;

Kathy and I join so many in expressing our deepest sympathies on the loss of a very special man.

He was a true friend and mentor. We shared many fun times on their patio and meals together. Bob was always the consummate host for any and all who had the good fortune to have him in their life.

We shared trips to many festivals in the Northwest including an "epic road trip" in his motor home to Portland! Such good times and memories made with Bob and Vera.

We will certainly miss "Bobathy" , as well as his positivity and constant smile. Farewell dear friend .

*Our love,
Mark & Kathy Lewis*

Mark Lewis - March 14, 2021 at 10:16 PM

ET

“ Dear Vera and Curtis Family,

Our friendship with Bob goes back to 1944 when our family moved to Dryden and my sister and I started attending the Grace Lutheran Church (above the Bank) in Cashmere. Our friendship continued in Luther League and P L U. Bob and I became members of the Lutheran Campus Ministry in Ellensburg at Central Washington University in 1967. The next year Barbara and I joined the successful campaign for Bob's election to the Washington State House of Representatives. Four years later Bob, George Sellar, and other Republicans recruited me to run for the other House seat and gave me great encouragement and support.

As a life-long Lutheran I have enjoyed celebrating our common faith with Bob. His photographs show his infectious smile that we will always remember.

Sincerely,

Earl and Barbara

Earl Tilly - March 13, 2021 at 06:43 PM

NH

“ *I remember Bob from Curtis Thriftway. He always had a big smile and was very friendly. He was one of those people who truly cared about great customer service and being kind to others. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the Curts family, especially Joyce and Robin. John and Nancy Hatzenbihler*

Nancy Hatzenbihler - March 13, 2021 at 05:01 PM

SA

“ Our family lived near the Thriftway store in East Wenatchee. When I was about five years old, my mom and I were there and I couldn't resist the temptation of the candy display, and took a candy bar. Soon enough my mom found out and marched me to the Store Manager, Mr. Curtis. He was probably no older than 30 at the time, and he gave me a stern lecture about stealing and told me to never do that again. Ten or so years later, he gave me my first real job, first as the clean-up boy in the meat department and later as a "Curtis C boy", stocking shelves and bagging groceries. It was a good job and Bob was a terrific boss who treated everyone well. He never mentioned the candy incident! The staff there was like a big family. My condolences to the Curtis family especially Joyce and Robin who were in school at the same time I was.

Scott Allen

SCOTT ALLEN - March 12, 2021 at 06:59 PM

TP

“ As Uncle Bob's niece (his brother Dick's daughter), I have many, many fond memories of visiting our cousins in East Wenatchee. We lived in their backyard swimming pool and sleeping in our sleeping bags during the summer. I learned about "dry lightening" and shooting stars and always felt like part of their family of kids when we visited Uncle Bob and Aunt Patty. It was also fun visiting George and Alma Sellars who lived across the street. Since we lived in the Seattle area, I remember our families meeting at Easton State Park for family gatherings and also to "swap out the kids" from our summer cousin visits on both sides of the mountains. Uncle Bob loved to joke with me by saying "See you TA-MARA". He was such a kind and gentle man. I'll miss you Uncle Bob!
Love, Tammie (Curtis) Parkinson, Niece, East Wenatchee

Tammie (Curtis) Parkinson - March 12, 2021 at 01:19 PM

KT

“ Prayers and love to Bob's family at this time. With love, Karen and Gary Talbert

Karen Asp Talbert - March 11, 2021 at 06:45 PM

FD

“ When I came to Washington State in 1974, Bobby was one of the first people I met. For the next 47 years, he was my best friend, period.

__Frank DeLong

Frank DeLong - March 11, 2021 at 03:06 PM

GS

“ Carol and I were lucky neighbors of Bob and Vera in East Wenatchee. We enjoyed many evenings of laughter, fond memories of Bob and Vera's travels, and the unique storytelling ability of Bob. He was such a great person, neighbor, and friend. His sense of humor was legendary, as was his wit, and genuine interest in others. We remember the sparkle in his eyes when he spoke of his children and love of family and pride he grandchildren. He made a remarkable contribution to the lives of so many people in our community. He was "one of a kind," the really "GREAT KIND" of a person. As Mr. Rogers would say, "Bob, thanks for being our neighbor," in so many good ways. you have been a good man . . . you have earned the respect and admiration we all had/have for you. Rest in peace knowing you have been a good and faithful servant. You will be missed, but never forgotten. Gene and Carol Sharratt

Gene Sharratt - March 11, 2021 at 12:54 PM

LR

“ I first met Bob and his father, whom was always called "Bud" when the Curtis Thriftway super market opened and was part of the employee staff that participated in the grand opening and remained working there until the summer.

In the fall of 1958 I worked part-time for Bob while attending WJC, then in December I went to work full-time as assistant in the produce department until August 1959.

Bob was a superb employer (Bud operated their other store in Cashmere) and in 1959 the Retail Clerks union was threatening to strike if new terms were not agreed upon. I and several other "young bucks" attended the meeting designed to make picket line arrangements. We advised the union rep's we were not going to strike, just sign the damned agreement Bob wants and if you picket all Curtis employees will go through it. The contract was signed on the terms Bob wanted; that action demonstrated the loyalty and respect we employees had for Bob.

Bob, many lives were positively impacted by your years upon this earth and as life comes to an end we who remain can only hope that one not suffer too greatly but go out in peace and pleasant memories.

Goodbye to a good man and may all the members of the family find solace among themselves.

Larry C. Russell

Larry C. Russell - March 09, 2021 at 05:55 PM