

# CHARLES CURTIS GRAHAM



The world lost an exceptional man on November 27, 2023, when Charles Curtis Graham passed away in the arms of his beloved wife, Linda.

Charles, or Curt as he was called, loved life, and lived it to the fullest. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Lilian (Dorner) Graham; and his brother, Daniel Graham; and is survived by his sister, Kristine Hahn of

San Francisco, California.

As a little boy he developed a lifelong love of the sea and boating, going

out with fisherman into the Gulf of Mexico from Clearwater Beach, Florida. The Three Rivers of Pittsburgh were also always near to his heart and soul. One fateful summer, when they were teenagers growing up in

Etna, he met his wife and best friend, Linda, swimming in the Allegheny River. It was the beginning of a great adventure and a rare love story that Curt and Linda shared till the end. As a young couple, they lived on a beautiful farm in Kittanning, enjoying many moonlit rides on their horses.

Curt had a calling to be a lawman and began his career as a police officer for the University of Pittsburgh. He quickly rose through the ranks and became the Chief of Police for the University of Pittsburgh. He would go on to work in management at the University of Pittsburgh for many years. The birth of his daughter, Caitlin Graham (Clarke), however, gave him the job he loved and succeeded at the most. He was an amazing and devoted father, the absolute best. Curt loved his daughter beyond words. As a little girl, she convinced him to allow their family to get a cabin outside of Seven Springs, where lots of fun skiing and nature memories were made.

Curt loved his son, Tom Graham, immensely. He taught him the importance of grit and integrity and had a small obsession with the success of Tom's high school football team at North Hills. This small obsession (i.e. pride) would continue with his son's career as a trial attorney. Curt was a brilliant strategist and got a big kick out of discussing how to win cases with his son. Throughout his life, Curt and Tom shared a lot of hobbies together and

with friends. They enjoyed shooting, boating, dirt-biking, golfing, model trains, their antique Corvette, and going to camp in Tionesta. Curt taught more than a few of Tom's friends how to shoot a gun, ride a motorcycle, and captain a boat. He was a man's man, but with a gentle and loving heart.

Later in life, as a retirement job, Curt would spend his days on the Three Rivers as a master captain of the Pittsburgh Voyager and Explorer, research vessels that took students on educational river boat cruises. He also enjoyed teaching criminal justice at the Community College of Allegheny County, and always had an amazing knowledge of foreign affairs and history. During retirement, Curt was a snowbird who knew the local bars of the Florida Keys like the back of his hand, in fact he kept a running list of the best happy hours from Key Largo to Key West.

He was fiercely loyal, always surrounded by a great group of lifelong friends, and was blessed with a great bond and relationship with his son-in-law, Dr. Bridger Clarke, whom Curt loved and respected deeply. Curt's enormous kindness, intelligence, and quirky sense of humor are now carried on by his grandsons, William and Nathan Clarke. It may well be that he loved those two most of all! He never wanted to miss a hockey game, music performance or chance to take William out for a steak, and loved to brag about his grandsons at his local haunts. "Pap" loved to spoil his boys rotten and was never without a \$20 bill to slip to them for a treat.

Curt did life right, and enjoyed the small things, like taking Linda on a date to lunch or happy hour nearly every day. His last week of life was spent making great memories with his family. He ended his last day on earth listening to music with his soulmate, Linda, exactly as he would have wanted. He was so loved and loved fiercely back. The memory of Curt Graham's love, kindness, extreme generosity, and greatness will never be forgotten by those lucky enough to have known him.

Interment will be private to the family. Arrangements entrusted to **LAUGHLIN FUNERAL HOME**, Mt. Lebanon.

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