

ROBERT BRUNO



Robert "Bob" Paul Bruno passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Bob was born on February 11, 1935, in Braddock, PA, to Vincent and Mary (Chappie) Bruno.

Bob put himself through college working as a barber alongside his father, and after graduating from the University of Pittsburgh, became a public school teacher. After pursuing

graduate studies at Duquesne University and McGill University, Bob joined the faculty at CCAC, where he taught French and then English at CCAC's Boyce, Allegheny, and Homewood-Brushton campuses. Bob was a generous, warm, patient, kind, trusting, and funny teacher, and was beloved by generations of students. Bob loved teaching and taught full time into his eightieth year. Bob was also a lifelong learner who regularly audited classes at CCAC in diverse fields, just because he loved learning.

Bob had a deep interest in travel, and organized a travel club at CCAC that took students, faculty, and staff on numerous trips over the course of several decades. Bob visited all 48 of the contiguous states, traveled to Europe even in his mid-eighties, and took many trips to Canada, where he enjoyed visiting family and speaking French. Bob was a polyglot who could speak several languages well and could understand and speak bits of several more. On trips, Bob was very interested in architecture, urban planning, and public transportation as well as local culture and adventurous cuisine. Many of Bob's friends were like family to him. His warmth and sense of humor were like a magnet, and endeared him to other people.

Bob viewed life as a self-improvement project, and worked over the course of his adult life to improve his physical, mental, and spiritual health through diverse pursuits including transcendental meditation, many alternative therapies, diets, prayer, spiritual readings, Catholic services and the Mass. Until his last six months, Bob went regularly to the gym and took yoga classes. At Bob's eightieth birthday party, he gave an impromptu speech in which he said that, looking back at his life, every decade had been better than the last, and that he hoped that his eighties would be his best decade yet. In many ways, thanks to the freedom afforded by his retirement, the time he spent with his many close friends, his closeness to family, and especially the outstanding care his brother Vince provided during his last five years, it was. Bob was an optimist; even in the toughest times, when asked how he was doing, he would say "I think I'm doing a little better today." He always, even in his last week, had a plan for how he would improve things in the coming months or year.

Bob's spirituality was rooted in Roman Catholicism, loving all people, and a deep commitment to social justice. He saw every person as a child of God, and therefore did what he could to improve their lives. He was especially interested in building better lives for the poor in America and abroad, improving educational opportunities, increasing access to healthcare, and ensuring that all people's human and civil rights were protected. Bob gave generously to numerous charities benefitting both people and animals, but also to individuals, sometimes to people who he barely knew if he saw a need. His generosity and kind nature could be jaw-dropping; after he discovered that two hitchhikers were trying to steal his iPad, he felt bad that they were so desperate and gave them some money and a ride anyway.

Bob is survived by his sister, Nina (Ray) DeFazio of Greensburg, PA, his brother Vince of Dormont, PA, his sister-in-law Rita Bruno of Munhall, PA, his nieces Amy Bruno of Honolulu, Hawaii, Anita (Andy Marshall) Bruno of Whitaker, PA, Laura (Dirk) Wabruck of Port Orange, FL, Laura DeFazio of Pittsburgh, PA, his nephews Mike (Amy) DeFazio of Uniontown, PA, Joe DeFazio of Pittsburgh, PA, his cousin Charles DeMonaco of Mount Lebanon, PA, his former sister-in-law Julia "Cookie" Bruno of Port Orange, FL, numerous cousins and grand-nieces and nephews, numerous friends including his closest friends, Rich Bernard, Jay Steele, John Johnian, Bob Seifried, Dave Adelmam, Henrietta Pisztor, Francine Byrnes, Eleanor Chengery, Caitlyn Zunic, Sylvia Francis, and his caregiver Randi Chinn.

Bob was preceded in death by his father Vincent Bruno, his mother Mary Bruno, his brothers Jackie Bruno, Dick Bruno, and Bill Bruno.

Family and friends are welcomed at the **JOHN N. ELACHKO FUNERAL HOME**, 3447 Dawson St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213, for Visitation on Saturday, March 29, 2025, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., and on Sunday, March 30, 2025, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, March 31, 2025, at 10 a.m. at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 1909 Broadway Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15216, (MEET AT THE CHURCH) followed by interment at Calvary Catholic Cemetery.

When asked about his goals, Bob said his intention was to live as - and become - a saint, adding "shouldn't we all?" Seeing the loving, honest, generous, and warm way he lived his life and the countless people he touched, many of his family and friends believe that he achieved that goal. Please visit Bob's memorial page at ELACHKO.com.

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