



Glenn Zempel

May 3, 2022

Glenn Zempel of the South Hills and Sarasota, Florida, passed away on Tuesday, May 3, 2022. Born in Pittsburgh in 1944, Glenn was the son of Harold Zempel and Marie Cox Zempel Liebegott. A '62 graduate of Penn Hills High School and Slippery Rock University, he taught Physical Ed/Driver's Ed for the Fox Chapel School District. After teaching, he worked on oil rigs in Louisiana before pursuing a career with the Allegheny County Health Department as a health inspector. Sports were an art form to him. Glenn, a southpaw, was an outstanding athlete playing football, basketball, golf, and baseball as a first baseman. In high school, he was chosen to join the "Little Pirates," (possible future Pirates in training) by the Pittsburgh Pirates. Glenn took up hiking, fishing, skiing, flying, and then sailing, not an easy sport to follow in landlocked Pittsburgh. He loved his time racing his J-22 at the Pymatuning Yacht Club. After he retired, he and his wife, Valerie Westcott, spent several summers on Lake Champlain, the Chesapeake Bay, and the waters of North Carolina, living aboard their 31' Island Packet sailboat. Glenn is survived and will be missed by his wife, Valerie Westcott; his sister, Jerilea Zempel of New York City; stepdaughter, Rae Michelle Dono (Dono Tatsuya) of Osaka, Japan, stepdaughter, Katherine Westcott (Jason Suchy); two grandchildren, Layla Powell and Joshua Suchy as well as many cousins and close friends. A memorial service will be scheduled for the end of June. In his name, memorial donations may be made to the Pittsburgh YMCA Summer Camp Program because he believed every child should have the chance to learn the many life lessons of playing a team sport, especially outdoors.

Comments



“ Glenn Zempel
1944-2022

A Remembrance

Glenn Zempel was a man who loved the outdoors. From his earliest years, he was always seeking out kids in the neighborhood of Penn Hills to play ball, any kind of ball. He had a great need to move through space and make his body perform better than it did the day before - to run faster, catch quicker, hit farther, ski longer. And then to make adjustments and try again, a trait fostered by his father who went to every game of Glenn's before his unexpected passing when Glenn was only 18 years old. As Glenn got older he sought out the equipment to add to the challenge - a better glove, new Converse sneakers, a darkroom for his photography, an MG, splicing fruit trees to make hybrid trees, becoming a beekeeper, an airplane, a J-22 sailboat, a Jeep, a 31' Island Packet sailboat. And he knew how to fix them all too. A man from a different time for sure.

He did not let many people into his circle of family and friends but when he did, he loved them. He was loyal to those who were honest and truly good people. He loved teaching, admired the men on the oil rigs and learned more “stuff” at the Allegheny County Health Department than he cared to know.

He loved skiing at The Chalet with his friends who became like family. He kept in touch with people at PYC who he also sailed with on the Chesapeake Bay. He hiked Alaska with his good buddy Paul Samios and they both lived to tell many tales, some of which are probably true. He sailed with John “Nick” Nicklas in the Great Ocean Race and again, survived to tell grandiose stories of great suffering and endurance. But time catches up with us all and the illnesses Glenn endured took the wind out of his sails and the strength from his legs. The last years were spent suffering through his wife's cooking, traveling the country in their RV, and delighting in watching his two young grandchildren move their bodies through space and onto the sports fields to play with the other kids in the out-of-doors.

-Valerie

Valerie Westcott - May 12 at 12:47 PM



“ Please do not send flowers or gifts of any kind. Cards are welcome to be sent to Valerie Westcott, 5243 Wellfleet Dr So, Sarasota, FL 34241 until May 31st. Thank you.

Valerie Westcott - May 12 at 12:51 PM



“ In lieu of flowers, donations may be made at the Pittsburgh YMCA Summer Camp Program. Thank you.

Valerie Westcott - May 12 at 01:08 PM