



## Warren E. Roberts

May 8, 1933 - May 8, 2018

Warren E. Roberts died Tuesday, May 8th on his 85th birthday in a car accident while on his daily morning walk near his home in Longboat Key, Florida.

Warren was born in Santa Monica, California on May 8, 1933 to H. Cedric Roberts and Mildred Howe. He was preceded in death by his only brother James C. Roberts (Betty). Roberts earned a BS from USC in 1954, served the US army in Germany from 1954 to 1956, where he discovered his love of history, art and music. He then returned to UC Berkeley, where he earned his BA in 1959, MA in 1960 and finally his PhD in history in 1966. He began his professional career in 1963 at the University of Albany, where he was a distinguished professor of history until his retirement in 2013. Warren was an avid athlete: he was regularly seen on campus playing basketball with students, tennis with colleagues, riding his bicycle and running around the campus perimeter road where he was a regular fixture. His love of classical music was shared with his colleagues and students throughout his career. His extensive travels informed and influenced his six published books, and his research continued through his retirement on Longboat Key until his passing. He is survived by his wife Anne F. Roberts and four children; Carissa (nee Erin), James (Susan), Thomas and Peter; and six grandchildren Kyle, Austin, Nolan and Surawit Roberts, and Stewart and Hillary Williams. For many years, while at the University he could always be seen with his loving dog Buster loyally by his side.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 12th at 3:00 pm at All Angels by the Sea Episcopal Church on Longboat Key, Florida, with a reception following.

Contributions in lieu of flowers can be sent to Southeastern Guide Dogs or the Silverstein Institute.

# Tribute Wall

RH

“ I took a course on European Art History with Prof Roberts in 1989. I was a history major at SUNYA and I was on the university tennis team. Both things appealed to Prof Roberts because he was an athlete and a scholar. He was a role model to me. The sense of dedication he had to teaching, to his profession (he was a cherished colleague), to students, and to intellectual life demonstrated to me what might be possible. It is hard to describe the power Prof Roberts possessed as person of integrity and intelligence. This was an era at SUNYA of great faculty, including Allan Ballard and Kevin Shanley, among others. Prof Roberts got me to think so much bigger than I ever had before, encouraging me to go to grad school and to travel. I did both and I am forever grateful to him. I've been a history professor for almost twenty years at a school very similar to SUNYA. I don't think this career would have been conceivable to me without Warren Roberts. I say thank you to him and his family.

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**Ray Haberski** - January 20, 2023 at 01:43 PM

FB

“ I loved the man. He opened up doors to history that I entered. I majored in History. I did graduate work in History because of him. When I visited Albany again, in 2011, he was there. He gave me a copy of his recent book, "A Place in History." He wrote an inscription to me... "a student and a wonderful one that I remember fondly." I can't believe what happened to him. He was such a strong man. I think of him often. Frank Burd

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**Frank Burd** - September 30, 2021 at 10:50 PM

JB

“ Dr. Warren Roberts and his profound mind played a major role in shaping the minds of both my sister and I. Words cannot express the gratitude we have for this man. He was a rare bird in this world. He epitomized excellence as a professor of history and as a human being. We will never forget his footprint on our lives.

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**JeanMarie & Angelica Bianchi** - June 29, 2018 at 12:00 AM

WJ

“ I had the pleasure of having Professor Roberts as my instructor and advisor while at UA and was fortunate enough to take his last graduate class he taught there. He was not only a brilliant academic but a genuinely warm and caring person. I can remember discussing numerous topics in his office, both dealing with class and life in general, and he taught me more than just the subjects discussed in class. He made such an impression on me as a Historian and as a person, that I can only hope to be half the man he was.

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**William Griffiths Jr.** - May 29, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ When I was a freshman in Dr. Roberts' world history class, I accidentally became enchanted by the Victorian Age. We had a midsemester exam coming up and I couldn't tear myself away from *The Victorian Frame of Mind* to study for his exam. I came into his office weeping. What should I do? Follow my interest? Study the official assignments? He smiled that famous smile. "Why not write your exam about the Victorian Age?" WHAT? No teacher had ever allowed me to choose my own books. He lit up my already-burning passion to read history in terms of art, music, economics, theology, poetry, metaphysics, science. I took a flying leap into trust: not only his but my own. When he returned our exams I saw that he had given me an "A" and this sentence: "I learned from you." That transaction fueled my own university teaching for thirty-five years. Now I'm a retired professor emerita. Dr. Roberts' daring resilience was a powerful model for creative learning and teaching. Thank you Dr. Roberts.

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**Rhoda Carroll** - May 19, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ I am eternally grateful to Professor Roberts for his seeing in me what I did not yet see in myself. From my first encounter with him as a freshman in his "Art and Music History Multimedia" class, to my protracted journey through my seminar paper for my MA in History, I saw patience, wisdom, and a keen intellect and passion that served to shape me as a scholar and a person. When he reached out to me last year via email (I didn't believe he would ever touch a computer!), I was humbled and so pleased to know that I stood out to him. Our subsequent exchanges will stay with me always. May his memory be a blessing, and may his passion, scholarship, and wisdom live on in the many lives he touched as a professor and as a person.

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**Jessica Lacher-Feldman** - May 18, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ At each meeting in his office, Professor Roberts showed me photos and talked about all the the members of his family. He was very warm and kind. How I enjoyed his class!

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Annette Kramer - May 15, 2018 at 12:00 AM

KI

“ a few years ago , I moved to the beach n early morning when I was praying n speaking to god about situations in my life , from the north appeared to be a precious angel walking into my life.

Every morning I would wait for him too.

He became my sunrise.

I loved this man.

my husband n children all knew how I felt about him. He was an angel .....n they too loved waving to him.

I never spoke words to him but no words where needed

He just always showed up at times of my morning prayers . He became my teacher, he knew secrets about the miracles that unfolded in nature so early in the morning. So many times we shared visions of rainbows , dolphins n the beauty of this heavenly place . He also showed me what strength looked like n to never give up . N at the time he walked into my life - I needed to know these wisdom teachings .

I would be amazed at how fit n fast he became day after day walking the beach.

Tuesday morning I didnt see him n I wondered where my precious angel was, n Wednesday too

My mornings will never be the same , as I will miss my daily visits from this precious angel named warren but he has illuminated my heart n will always be remembered n loved.He has blessed my life in many ways .

May all those who adored him be comforted at this time .

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Kimberly - May 12, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ It was a pleasure to have Warren in his last semester at Albany. He epitomize the distinguished teaching Prof. designation to the T. He was always there for his students And he treated us like his family. I like to send my condolences to Anne and the rest of the Roberts family.

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**Alex Traum** - May 11, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ He was a wonderful professor! It is a great loss!

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May 11, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ I only knew Warren from walking on the beach. But I knew he was special from the first time I talked to him. I dont think he heard me but smiled just the same. Soon, I was looking forward to my early morning walks just so I could see Warren. We would hug and say to each other, another beautiful day. I left for our trip north on April 13th. I told Warren that I wouldnt see him till fall. He said I will still be here and we hugged. I never knew his name.

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**Roey Gangloff** - May 11, 2018 at 12:00 AM