



Raymond E Owen

January 21, 2022

Dr. Raymond Edward Owen, 83, of Pittsburgh, PA., passed away on January 21, 2022. He is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, Dorothy Fitzhugh Jones Owen, his three adoring daughters, Elizabeth (Harry) Bratt, Deborah (Jeffrey) Bauman, and Laura Durham, and his six loving grandchildren, Rachel Bratt, Matthias Bauman, Owen Bratt, Eliana Durham, Dylan Bauman, and Leila Durham; and his two sisters, Jane Knecht and Joan Owen. Ray was born on July 2, 1938, in McGraw, New York. He graduated from McGraw Central High School in 1957. He studied history at State University of New York (SUNY) Oneonta, then continued on to SUNY Buffalo to complete a Ph.D. in Political Science in 1971. Ray met his future wife while working in Cooperstown. Dottie Jones was on affiliation at Bassett Hospital as a student nurse. The couple married in Freeport, New York on Long Island on May 5, 1962. The couple had three daughters. In 1969, Ray accepted a position on the faculty of the Political Science Department at the University of Pittsburgh, where he spent the entirety of his professional career. At the time of his retirement in 2006, he had held several important positions, including Director of the Urban Studies Program in the College of Arts & Sciences from 1985 – 1995, Vice Chair of the Department of Political Science from 1991 – 1996, and finally Chair of the Department of Political Science from 1996 – 2001. Ray spent 1976-77 teaching at the University Of Glasgow, Scotland, on a Pitt exchange program. The family enjoyed exploring the United Kingdom during the year, including the famous St. Andrews golf course, an important historical

site for an avid golfer like Ray. Ray and Dottie enjoyed traveling and often frequented the beaches of Long Island, Delaware and Florida. They traveled across Europe and Ray enjoyed capturing the sights in his photography. Before the pandemic, they made regular trips to Mountain View, California to visit their eldest daughter and her family. The couple had the remarkable experience to sail around the world with Pitt's Semester at Sea program, not once but twice. During the first voyage in 2004, Ray served as Academic Dean, and during the second trip, he served as a Professor of Political Science. He taught on board the vessel while traveling from port-to-port. On their global voyage, they met with several notable people including Fidel Castro and Bishop Desmond Tutu. A long-time member of the Church of the Redeemer, Ray also served God and the Church as a member of the Vestry, as Senior Warden, and on the Search Committee, who were tasked to find a new priest best suited to lead the Church. Services will be held on Saturday, February 5th at Church of the Redeemer, 5700 Forbes Avenue in Squirrel Hill, at 11:00 a.m. Zoom link is available by emailing: redemerchurch@aol.com. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Church of the Redeemer, 5700 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217 or Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (givenow.lls.org). Arrangements entrusted to the GENE H. CORL FUNERAL CHAPEL INC. AND CREMATION SERVICES OF MONROEVILLE. Condolences to the family can be made at www.corlfuneralchapel.com

Previous Events

Service

FEB 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of the Redeemer
5700 Forbes Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Tribute Wall

RL

“ Dear Dottie and Daughters,

I wanted to send along my sincere sympathies on Ray's passing. Ray and I shared the halls in the department for many years but he made a crucial difference in running the place. He did so with efficiency, concern for every member of the department. and a calm demeanor that let the rest of us take the day off, knowing he was at the helm.

More importantly, he was a warm and welcoming presence to his colleagues and students alike. A wry comment was never far off and his willingness to focus on you when you were talking always left you with a good feeling even when, as often happened to chairs, you disagreed.

The profession—and our community—needs more people like Ray and his qualities and presence will be missed.

Condolences to you all,

Ron Linden

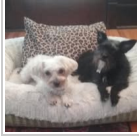
Ron Linden - February 07, 2022 at 03:12 PM

RW

“ Ray and I were colleagues in the Political Science Department for about 40 years and played golf together In summers over that period and during our retirement years. I will miss his insights and penetrating humor. He was a soulmate to me. I miss him.

Tony Walters

Robert S. Walters - February 04, 2022 at 08:18 PM



“ I grew up next to Ray and his family. I was friends with his daughters. I would often see him in the back yard and talk to him...as I habitually cut through their back yard! He was such an intelligent and bright person. I use to think when I grow up, I want to be a professor at Pitt like Mr. Owen! My deepest condolences to Mrs. Owen, Liz, Debbie, and Laura. I am so grateful for all of the fond memories.

Jamie Grace - February 02, 2022 at 08:49 PM

BA

“ Hi Dottie,

I was lucky to follow Ray as department chair, Not only was everything in good shape when I took over, but Ray helped me out whenever I needed help, which was often.

There is no single adjective that can describe Ray adequately, but I can think of a few:

"Kind," He was always an incredibly kind and gracious person.

"Unpretentious," Maybe the least pretentious person I've ever met.

"Caring," Especially as a teacher. Undergrads loved him, for good reason. He was funny, clear, and dedicated to students' welfare. I regularly got him to teach urban politics; it was a favor to the students, not to Ray.

I will miss him a lot.

Barry Ames

Barry Ames - February 01, 2022 at 10:30 PM

NC

“ Dr. Owen was my political science professor at Pitt. Once, the class heard a siren outside the window. Dr. Owen's comment was "Probably some kid with a joint." One of the students looked out the window and said "It's a fire truck." Dr. Owen's response was "They're probably putting it out."

He was one of my references when I applied for admission to law school. I am sorry to say that we lost touch after that. He will be missed.

Norma Chase - January 28, 2022 at 08:20 AM

LD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Laura Durham - January 27, 2022 at 07:35 AM

LD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Laura Durham - January 26, 2022 at 02:46 PM

LD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Laura Durham - January 25, 2022 at 04:07 PM

LD

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Laura Durham - January 25, 2022 at 04:04 PM

LD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Laura Durham - January 25, 2022 at 04:02 PM

LD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Laura Durham - January 25, 2022 at 03:55 PM

LD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Laura Durham - January 25, 2022 at 03:50 PM

LD

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Laura Durham - January 25, 2022 at 03:46 PM

LD

“ 6 files added to the album *Dad*



Laura Durham - January 25, 2022 at 03:27 PM

LD

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Laura Durham - January 25, 2022 at 03:20 PM