



Robert Max Blum

November 24, 1928 - November 27, 2022

Rensselaerville - Robert Max Blum of Rensselaerville, NY, died on November 27, 2022, at age 94 of natural causes according to his immediate family. Mr. Blum is remembered for his extensive public service to New York City and State, as an Olympic saber fencer, and for his deep commitment to causes he loved.

Mr. Blum held significant leadership roles in New York City government as Assistant and then Counsel to Mayor John V. Lindsay from 1966 to 1970. Once described as "Number Three" in the Lindsay administration, Blum's primary responsibility in city government was the advancement of the Local City Hall program, intended to increase the direct influence of communities in the prioritizing of city services and resources. In this role, Mr. Blum had special responsibility for outreach across the Borough of Brooklyn. During periods of crisis and civil unrest in Bedford-Stuyvesant and throughout New York in the mid-1960's, especially following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Blum participated in mediations between city officials and community leaders, always seeking to find common ground.

Prior to and following his time in city government, Mr. Blum focused on the practice of law as a civil litigator eventually becoming a senior partner of the

firm Bangser, Klein, Rocca & Blum. He concluded his legal career as an Assistant Attorney General, representing New York State in the landmark Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit.

Paralleling his career in law and government, Blum was a world-class athlete, the first American fencer to make the World Championship individual finals in 1958. From there, he would go on to be a two-time Olympic competitor as a saber fencer in the Tokyo (1964) and Mexico Games (1968), and to serve as the U.S. saber team captain and manager in the decades that followed.

Mr. Blum was predeceased in 2012 by his loving wife and partner in public service, Barbara B. Blum, who among many local, state and national assignments served as Commissioner of Social Services for the State of New York under Governor Carey. After the birth of their second son, Jonathan, who is profoundly autistic, Robert and Barbara Blum were part of a coalition of parents who helped co-found the Association for Metroarea Autistic Children, Inc., in 1961-- one of the very first schools committed to educating children with autism.

A 1950 graduate of Trinity College, Hartford, CT, Blum was a devoted alumnus who rarely missed a homecoming or reunion and served twice on its Board of Trustees during the 1970s and 1980s.

Robert Blum is survived by his children Stephen, Jonathan, Thomas and Jennifer, their partners, 5 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, his stepsister Ellen Fertig, and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Memorial services will be held on December 11, 2022 at 2 P.M. at Conkling Hall, 8 Methodist Hill Road, Rensselaerville, NY, and on December 17, 2022 at 2 P.M. at the Yale Club in New York City.

Donations in Robert's memory may be sent to Birch Family Services at 104 W 29th St, Floor 3, NY, NY 10001, ATTN: Development Dept or online at birchfamilyservices.org/donate

To leave Robert's family a message on their guestbook, obtain directions, or view other helpful services, please visit www.mcveighfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Service

DEC 11. 2:00 PM (ET)

Conkling Hall
8 Methodist Hill Road
Rensselaerville, NY 12147

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Max Blum*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *Thank you for teaching me ping pong at the Hedges. Never could hit back Mr. Blum's over spins. Thanks for inspiring me to bushwhack and find obscure streams near Blue Mt. I have many wonderful memories being with the Blum family and are grateful for the family's courtesy and friendship. May God bless you! David Williams*

David williams - December 17, 2022 at 10:31 AM



“ *Bob loved to tell stories of history, or his Olympic experiences and travel adventures. He would go find a book from his collection and read an excerpt or show a place on the map. So much intelligence to share.*

We are all sorry for the loss of Barbara and Bob Blum from our community ❤️

Janice Hyde Kammerer - December 11, 2022 at 10:41 AM



“ *Jennifer and family, your father was a remarkable individual. My condolences to all.*
Becky Campoverde



Becky Campoverde - December 05, 2022 at 09:15 PM

GA

“ I send hugs to you all who loved and knew Bob. What a beautiful soul with the kindest heart. I wish the Amshel's had more time with this man. Sincerely, Gail

Gail B Amshel - December 04, 2022 at 04:30 PM

CU

“ Our sincere sympathy and prayers to Bob's family. It was an honor to know him.
Chris and Holly Ullstrom

Chris and Holly Ullstrom - December 04, 2022 at 11:32 AM