

In all the world, of all the people I have known or even known of, I could not imagine a greater friend to all than Robert Wone. I loved him as a brother and my sons love him as "Uncle" Robert.

I met Robert in 1993 when I transferred to W&M half way through my freshman year. Each year I got to know him better. We were already close friends by our senior year when we worked in student government together. Our short and poorly executed trip over the wall to the Governor's Palace cemented our bonds. He headed off to law school in Philly, I followed to the Main Line two years later. He'd come over about once a month for dinner and to play with my son PJ. Many other grown ups were awkward and didn't know what to do when PJ was doing his chest physical therapy, but Robert would just sit down right beside him and play with him. When Robert headed down to Norfolk, we kept in frequent contact. I went to practice in Jersey and he went to a big firm in DC. When my then wife left and took PJ and my second son, Jack, I spent hours sobbing to Robert on the phone, who consoled me and kept me sane. Robert and Jason were concerned about my moving to a less-than-desirable co-op, so they thought nothing of making the five-hour drive to West Orange to help rip out carpet and refurbish a bathroom. We all knew Robert to be such a giving person like that.

A few years ago, Robert returned from an ABA convention in Philadelphia with news of a wonderful woman he had met. They had walked and talked for hours. She was the one. Many of us like to ease in our new girlfriends into introductions to our families. Robert took the somewhat unconventional approach of taking Kathy to China for three weeks with his parents. I was so pleased for Robert when the Lord blessed him with a perfect marriage to Kathy, and, in turn, Robert loved and honored his wife as Christ loves the Church. Robert remarked to me, "I don't know if I'm good looking, but my wife thinks so and that's all that matters." He only had eyes for Kathy. He was so infatuated with her.

When I came back to the DC area a couple years ago, Robert and Kathy invited me to church with them. It had been many years since I had regularly attended. Through Robert and Kathy, the Lord worked in my life and renewed my faith. PJ and Jack looked forward to times when Robert taught their Sunday school class. And, just two months ago, Robert was best man in my wedding to Darcey -- Kathy and Darcey have been fast friends.

We will miss Robert, always. Our love for Kathy and Robert will live on in our friendship with Kathy and fond memories of the man that was a giant among men but chose to speak softly.

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