

## Robert Wone

There are simply no words in any language to express the depth and gravity of the loss that we all feel today.

We will continue to mourn for the rest of our lives, for ourselves, for each other, for everyone whom this brave and brilliant man would surely have touched and changed for the better.

We knew Robert for too short a time at Radio Free Asia, but we loved him.

We knew from the very first interview that this was a man of the greatest substance--of integrity, intelligence, character, humor, of gentle kindness, and of magnetic warmth. We asked him "why are you the right one for this job?" He said "I can't say I'm the best one but I can promise you I will give RFA everything I have."

When he walked out of the room, we just looked at each other and knew he was the one. I used to tell him that just looking at his open office door gave me a greatest sense of security.

From the first day, he was an integral part of our family and making a profound difference in the fabric of the RFA community. He was a person who lived to give back to humanity - he inspired you with it - he made each person he interacted with aspire to be a better person.

Robert was deeply committed to our mission. We say we live each day to be worthy of our audiences and our staff. He wanted to know each and every person and hear every story and read every news item. He was perfect for us - the missing piece to make our team complete.

He was the colleague for whom every manager prays, the friend you never thought you could find, the man we all hope our daughter might one day bring home -- if only we do everything right and pray hard enough.

He was a treasure, and none of us who knew him will ever be the same.

In much of East Asia, the color of mourning isn't black but white--the color of emptiness, absence, and loss. But it's also the color of unbridled possibility, of peace, innocence, hope, and Heaven, which is so much of what Robert brought into our lives and surely what he would want us to take as his legacy.

Libby Liu, President  
Radio Free Asia