



Dear Family and Friends,

My heartfelt thanks for all the many, many calls, messages and cards of support and comfort I have received. I only wish Herb could read all the lovely accolades to him, he would have loved them all!

It's really wonderful to hear from so many of you, whose life has been touched by Herb - from his 5<sup>th</sup> graders, to "kids"

he worked with over his long career in Social Work and "Fellows" who participated in the ILEX program, Rotarians both in Maine and Florida and others who had contact with him some other way.

Thank you all very much for sharing so many memories and warm messages, I appreciate every single one!

I hope you all stay in touch and come visit!

Love to all,

Liese

## Herb Barnes

September 25, 1926 – February 14, 2012

Husband, Father, Opa, Visionary, Tireless Ambassador and Volunteer. Larger than life.....

Herb was born and raised in Cheltenham, PA, heading just down the road to the University of Pennsylvania for college, with the intent upon pursuing a legal career. All that changed during a summer job, working on a farm in the countryside outside Philadelphia. This farm happened to be part of a residential facility for orphan and disadvantaged youth and a new path was uncovered. After graduation, Herb headed off to NYC for graduate school at the famed Bank Street School of Education, and eventually back to the University of Pennsylvania for a Master's in Social Work. Herb combined amazing empathy for disadvantaged youth with a love of the outdoors and boundless energy to change many lives in the ensuing years. Eventually he landed back at the residential facility, this time as Executive Director of the Carson Valley School. During this era, he joined and became very active in Rotary International, and in particular the Youth Exchange program. Through some of these new connections and a persistent vision that there had to be a better way to treat problem juveniles, he started working with some colleagues to create a new dynamic for child care in the US. In 1972, in a desire to demonstrate that his theories worked, he joined forces with his wife Liese and his brother and sister in law to found Youthorizons, a youth treatment facility in northern New Hampshire. While the concepts of youth engagement in their surrounds was a big hit, funding was not and eventually Herb returned to the world of "regular" youth service agencies, the entire time eyeing new ways to bring his ideas to life. Eventually, he and Liese formed an international exchange program (ILEX) to bring social educators from abroad to work within US agencies for a year at a time and teach more engaging methods of child care. ILEX proved to be the true embodiment of Herb's passion and commitment, and also enabled him to travel to five continents in his effort to "change the world"!

He and Liese settled in Maine and really found a home amongst the hearty, energetic and kind souls, all the while cruising around on a restored old wooden boat. Herb's white beard and instant smile are well known up and down the inlets and bays of the Maine Coast.

As in all his endeavors, Herb cast a huge shadow. Yes, he was a large man, not merely in physical stature, but in his energy, idealism, vitality, passion to help everyone, laughter and political engagement. We are sure the White House staff will miss all his letters! His heart was large too, and that is eventually what finally gave out, as he suffered a massive heart-attack in the wee hours of February 13<sup>th</sup> and died the following day, with his beloved wife of 50 years by his side.

His zest for life and engaging smile will be missed!

Herb's wishes were to be cremated and his ashes spread in his beloved Casco Bay, which we will do in a small family ceremony this summer. There are no formal services planned.

In honor of Herb's life and great passion to support Rotary International throughout his life we request that anyone who wishes to make a donation can do so, in his name to:



Rotary Foundation  
c/o Elise Hodgkin  
Rotary Club of Portland, Maine  
P.O. Box 1755  
Portland, Maine 04104-1755