



Robert G. Griffin

FEB 21, 1924 - JAN 8, 2008



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 6



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Robert Glaye Griffin Tacoma Attorney Robert Glaye Griffin, born February 21, 1924, passed away peacefully January 8, 2008 at American Lake Veterans Hospital at the age of 83. Robert was born in Victory, Wisconsin. He was raised by his aunt and uncle in Morgantown, West Virginia, where he graduated from high school at 17. Robert was working as a Chemical Laboratory Assistant when he enlisted in the U. S. Army for World War II. He was assigned to the 295th Combat Engineer Battalion. Robert served from Normandy through the Battle of the Bulge, where he was captured by the Germans and was a POW, where he escaped, and was recaptured, and was a German POW until April of 1945. His military battles and campaigns were Normandy "D" Day, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe. He received the following decorations: American Theatre, Good Conduct, EAME Ribbon Battle Stars, Victory Medal and Prisoner of War Medal. At the end of World War II, Robert worked as a carpenter, iron worker and various other skilled trades with the unions. He was working his way through college and graduated in 1953 with a B.A. from the University of Washington. He continued his education and was an adjunct teacher at the University of Washington, where he obtained his LLB (Law Degree) in 1956. He was a Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Washington, and remained an avid U of W Huskey alumni and fan. Robert belonged to the Washington State Bar Association from 1956 to present; Washington State Trial Lawyers Association from 1960 to present; Tacoma Pierce County Bar Association, and American Trial Lawyers Association. He held a "Professional Honor" as an Arbitrator for the Pierce County Superior Court. His area of practice was Personal Injury Litigation and Labor Law. Robert's private practice included representing various Tacoma unions: Cooks & Waiters, Electricians, Bartenders, Laborers, Longshoremen, Plumbers, Lumber & Sawmill Workers, Teamsters, and Iron Workers. In 1992, Robert was recognized as a "Founder" by the Washington State



Trial Lawyers Association for 25 years of his continuous support. In 1996, Robert was recognized by the Washington State Bar Association for forty years of service to the legal profession in the State of Washington. He had several court cases throughout his legal career that have changed the laws in the State of Washington. He was a founder of the Tacoma Legal Aid Society. During the mid 1960's, Robert ran for Port of Tacoma Commissioner, where he lost by a very narrow margin. His dedication to the development of Tacoma and the legal arena was very close to his heart. He often served as a Judge Pro Tem for Pierce County. Additionally, he often taught "Introduction to Law" and "Labor Law" at Tacoma Community College in the early '70's. Robert enjoyed helping others and was very generous to his family, friends and others less fortunate. He loved teaching and the enthusiasm of the younger generation. An avid Democrat for life and lawyer for the working class people. He was a member of the Tacoma Elk's Lodge # 174, 33rd Degree Mason, and a Shriner, with the Affi Patrol, where he devoted much of his time marching with the Provo Guard. Robert was an avid gardener and he had a passion for his roses and flowers. His flowers were spectacular and he took great pleasure in presenting them to others. Robert's strong work ethic and devotion to his family, legal profession and his community will be his legacy to all who have loved him. He will be greatly missed but never forgotten. Thanks be to God for the life of Robert Glaye Griffin. Robert is survived by his beloved wife Ilene Frances (Lahmann) Griffin, to whom he was married to for 44 years. He has three children, Brenda Yormack of Tacoma, Kandi (Art) Boyce of Federal Way, Terry (Chris) Larson of Parkland, Alisha Griffin of Puyallup, and two stepdaughters, Frances (Lance) Bondy of New York and Annette (Kevin) Fender of Florida. He had seven grandchildren, James Robert Forman, Lance H. Bondy II, Erin S. Lanuti, Devon K. Bondy, Jennifer R. Pierce, Danielle C. Fender, Nicole Byzinker. Robert had 7 great-grandchildren, Isaiah Glaye Griffin, Ciera Grandberry, Sequoia Griffin, Ethan B. Byzinker, Bailey Bondy, Piper Bondy and Graham Lanuti. Friends may call at Mountain View Funeral Home January 17, 2008 between the hours of 2pm to 9pm for viewing and to pay their respects. Funeral services will be held in the Garden Chapel at Mountain View Memorial Park Friday, January 18, 2008 at 11:00 am. A reception will follow at Mountain View. Robert will be



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laid to rest at Tahoma National Cemetery. Flowers are welcome and/or donations made to Tacoma Elk's Lodge #174 E.N.F. (Elk's National Foundation for charities), 1965 South Union Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98405-1098 (253) 272-1117. Please view and sign the family guest book at www.mountainviewtacoma.com



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

Fran & Family - I was so sad to hear of your loss. Griff was such a great person and will definitely be missed by many. What awesome memories I have of Griff and the family...pickle parties and boat rides at the lake! We still have the pickle recipe and I think of Griff every Thanksgiving dinner when I open the first jar for the year! We also still cherish the recipe for Griff's scalloped potatoes! Take care and know you are in my prayers!##imported-begin##Lori Rainwater##imported-end##

January 31 at 6:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

"Letter's to my father" Dear Dad, Watching the rain fall on the skylights above~they look like small teardrops rolling down~forming patterns of sadness~I love the rain Dad~Have I taken the road less traveled? Or just taken to the road. The mountains we climb can be a challenge~Yet we continue to climb searching for answers. Walking alone or taking a friend, life is just a journey~when we reach the top we realize life is a mystery, the journey continues. I miss you already, it goes without saying "I'm a Daddy's girl" I will cherish every moment we spent together. I will always inspire others. I will inspire others to listen~and just simply listen. I will keep my family together. I will remember you fondly everytime I get up to water my roses. I will learn something new every day. I will comfort those who need my comfort. I will have the courage to go on. You are not alone on this journey Dad, Dean is waiting for you, grandma Griffin, Uncle Dana, and the love of your life, Dorothy B. Griffin.##imported-begin##Terri Griffin Larson##imported-end##

January 19 at 6:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Bob Griffin was a friend and a fine lawyer. His cases with opposing counsel Ed Lane made for interesting courtroom theatrics, they were both such great orators. I was blessed to know both Griff and his beautiful wife, Fran, professionally and personally, and their kindness & friendship shown to me will always be remembered.##imported-begin##Linda Lane##imported-end##

January 13 at 6:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. I will never forget the days on the lake with our little old boat and a BIG jar of Griff's pickles. God Bless.##imported-begin##Alan and Pamela Rainwater##imported-end##

January 13 at 6:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

To this day whenever Thanksgiving rolls around I think of the pickle making parties at Griff's house and wish I had just one more jar.##imported-begin##Ron Rainwater##imported-end##

January 13 at 6:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Griff as we called him was a great man and lawyer. He was in the office every morning at the crack of dawn. If he wasn't working on a case he was working for the Shirners arranging free medical care for a child. He was a voice for injured people and workers and generous to a fault. He was my partner and friend and I will cherish the time we spent together. I was a privilege and honor to have known him and to have him as a friend. Griff taught me that as attorneys we must work hard and be dedicated to our clients. As people we must give back to our community through service. God Bless you Griff you always be remembered.##imported-begin##Karl L.Williams##imported-end##

January 13 at 6:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

To Griff's Family: All I can say is, what a guy! He lived life with such gusto, and helped so many people. Bob and Fran were one of the first couples I met when the family moved to Tacoma in the early 1960's, and they showed us such love, and graciously included us in their social activities. To say that he was "colorful" in the courtroom and at story-telling would be an understatement! My fondest memories will be of Griff in the kitchen making his famous garlic bread, scalloped potatoes, and other favorites. We still treasure his recipe for dill pickles!! He astounded my parents when at a cookout at their home he slapped 20+ steaks on the BBQ and each one came out to perfection - we were in awe. So many plants in my Lakewood garden were starts from Griff's garden, and they bloom on for him! My condolences, love, and best wishes to Fran and the Family - Gerri (Rainwater) Johnson##imported-begin##gerri johnson##imported-end##

January 13 at 6:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

My condolences to the family. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Stew Wegener##imported-begin##Stew Wegener##imported-end##

January 12 at 6:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

A gentleman, I call my father, I call my freind, has went home again.A great life, he had lead. so many accomplishments to many to list, I call him my father, I call him my best friend.He taught me to dance, when I was young, His passion for living,I will carry on.A gentleman, a scholar, has returned home again,I love DAD, Princess, A.K.A. Terri##imported-begin##Terri Larson##imported-end##

January 12 at 6:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Robert by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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