



# Kirk B. Roose

JUL 12, 1946 - APR 27, 2018



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## **Kirk B. Roose**

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### **K**irk Roose Obituary

Kirk B. Roose, 71, an attorney, tennis player, activist, and barbershop harmony aficionado, died peacefully at home in Oberlin April 27, 2018 after a long illness. Roose was born in New Haven, Connecticut and spent much of his childhood in Oberlin. He attended Swarthmore College—where he played varsity tennis and met Diana Wickes, who would become his wife of 49 years—and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. In 1980, after a stint on the East Coast, they returned to Oberlin, where he started his own law practice, specializing in Social Security disability law. That firm, now known as Roose & Ressler, has helped thousands of disabled Ohioans receive Social Security benefits. While a junior high school student in Oberlin, Roose was recruited into a barbershop quartet with three of his friends, who called themselves the Barbersharps. A chord was struck, and barbershop harmony became a lifelong hobby. As a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society, he sang in numerous quartets, directed award-winning choruses—including a performance at Carnegie Hall as the director of the Big Apple Chorus—and arranged hundreds of songs in four-part harmony. Many of his arrangements are still sung by groups all over the world. A member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Roose remained politically active throughout his life, with special concern for issues of social and economic justice. Early in his career, he worked for Ralph Nader's Center for Study of Responsive Law, as a lawyer for the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, and an attorney for the Fair Share Housing Center in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. He enjoyed playing tennis and walking along the shore of Lake Erie. He is survived by his wife Diana, his sons Carl and Kevin, his mother Gretchen, and his siblings Tina, Deborah, and Paul. His father, Kenneth D. Roose, died in 2016. A memorial service will be 1:00 p.m. Saturday May 19, 2018 at Lakeview Park in Lorain. Arrangements are in the care of Dicken Funeral Home & Cremation



## Obituary

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Service, 323 Middle Avenue, Elyria. SERVICES Memorial Service Saturday, May 19, 2018 1:00 PM Lakeview Park Lorain, Ohio

To send flowers  
to the family or plant a tree  
in memory of Kirk B. Roose, please visit our floral store.

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## Tribute Wall

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LB

**Linda Beaver** posted:

I'm unbelievably sad to hear of Kirk's passing. My family, who has been in Barbershop 3 generations, had known Kirk for more than 50 years. We admired him, enjoy woodshedding and singing tags with him, and consider him a most talented and very special person. Kirk was a true gentleman when it came to knowing how to treat people. Kirk was gentle, soft-spoken, funny, warm, ever-smiling, and totally generous in sharing his talents. Kirk was genuine in all of his endeavors and loved barbershop just as much as I did (and still do). My world always brightened up whenever I saw Kirk because I knew that I would soon also be smiling and singing with him! Rest in peace, longtime friend. To say you will be missed is an understatement. With fondness always, Linda Beaver

June 2 at 8:00 PM

DG

**David Gray** posted:

I look forward to being with you all on Saturday. Much Love David

May 15 at 8:00 PM

BN

**Bryan Noda** posted:

Dear Roose family, My sincere condolences to you entire family. I have many fond memories of our dear friend and they are all numerous to mention here, I will say though that he impacted my life as a person and as a barbershopper that will last forever. May your fond memories always stay close to your hearts. My thoughts and prayers and love extend to you all. Sincerely, Bryan

May 14 at 8:00 PM

JB

**Jim Bagby** posted:

singing tags with kirk at various conventions over the years, sometimes with his sons, has been one of the joys of my life. and I have made his guidelines for successful chapter meetings and fun rehearsals part of every chorus director's class or COTS membership discussion I've ever been involved in. if the Society applied kirk's common sense approach to every meeting, we would sing better, recruit better, retain better and be quartet-rich organization so large and successful that all other challenges would disappear. how we will miss this talented, kind, giving human -- but we will sing his arrangements forever. kirk, I forgive cherry hills for knocking heart of America out of the medals by only a few points in 1981. prayers and best wishes to all your family and many, many friends.

May 12 at 8:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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NB

**Nancy Bennett** posted:

I'm a classmate of Kirk's from Swarthmore helping plan our 50th reunion. I didn't know Kirk at Swarthmore but in reading his obituary see how similar our backgrounds were. All my family on my father's side went to Oberlin. My parent met there. My sister went there for a few years and I wonder if I wouldn't have liked it. Also similar is the Quaker background. I'm sorry I didn't know him better and send my heartfelt condolences to his family.

May 11 at 8:00 PM

EH

**Emily Albrink Hartigan** posted:

Diana, I think I was always a tad jealous [in the good sense!] that you connected with one of the kind souls in our class at Swarthmore. I was a Quaker for 15 years and remain a Quatholic, and Kirk was one of the benchmark folks whose sense of humor made it clear that Friends were serious but definitely not TOO serious.

May 8 at 8:00 PM

TE

**Tom Evans** posted:

Kirk has been a barbershop mentor, director, advisor and all around good friend for many years. I have enjoyed many hours of woodshedding with Kirk and anyone else that would put up with my feeble attempts in the baritone realm. We will definitely have an unfilled vacancy in our midst at Middle Bass in the years to come but many good memories. To all the family and friends, you have my deepest condolences as we all will miss Kirk.

May 3 at 8:00 PM

AF

**Arthur Roose Family** posted:

We are so sorry to hear about Kirk's passing.. Our deepest sympathy to your family.. May he RIP..

May 3 at 8:00 PM

GW

**Gary Wulf** posted:

I'm deeply saddened by the passing of Kirk. His love of people, music and warm smile will always live on in our hearts. He was always a joy to be around and brought happiness to everyone he touched. The world needs wonderful men like Kirk. I know we will sing a tag together again in heaven. Bless all his family as they deal with his loss.

May 2 at 8:00 PM



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ER

**Elesa Rosasco** posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. Please know that I'm thinking of your family during this very sad time.  
With love, Elesa

April 30 at 8:00 PM

ES

**Eric Severs** posted:

I grew up across the street from the Rooses. My brother played plenty of tennis with Kirk down through the years. Kirk was an excellent tennis player. My law office was in the same building as that of Kirk. We had many conversations down through the years in the building halls & elevator. Kirk was also an excellent lawyer. My condolences go out to Diana, Carl, Kevin, and the rest of the family.

April 30 at 8:00 PM

PM

**P W (Bill) Miller** posted:

Would like to sing just one more tag with you. I'd be willing to stand in line.

April 30 at 8:00 PM

DP

**Dan Pursel** posted:

My deepest condolences to the Kirk Roose family at this time of loss. I sang under his leadership with the Lorain Ohio Golden Crescent Chorus. Saddened to learn of his passing. He will be missed.

April 30 at 8:00 PM

GL

**Ginger Loucks** posted:

Gretchen, Remember meeting Kirk at the Roose Family Association's Officer's meeting in Oberlin many years ago. My condolences to you and your family. Ginger

April 30 at 8:00 PM

SK

**Sylvia Kelley** posted:

My condolences to the Roose Family. I am sorry to learn of Kirks passing. This is too sad! Love to your family. Sylvia and Clark

April 30 at 8:00 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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