

Charles Robinson '56

Waterford - Dr. Charles Henry Robinson, Jr., best known as Buzz, a nickname given to him by his three older sisters, passed away peacefully on Nov. 18, 2018, the day after his 84th birthday.

Buzz was born in Tarrytown, N.Y., where he and his family lived throughout his childhood. In 1952, Buzz graduated from the Hackley School in Tarrytown where he was an avid student-athlete who played football, track, and ice hockey. Buzz continued playing ice hockey at Williams College where he majored in Chemistry and graduated Cum Laude in 1956. Buzz went on to get his medical degree from Yale University in 1960. During his studies at Yale, Buzz met and married his first love, Patricia McMinamin, in the summer of 1958. After medical school he served in the Air Force as a Pediatrician, first with an internship at Brooke Army Hospital at Fort Sam Houston, and then by completing his residency at U.S.A.F. Hospital in San Antonio, Texas. He continued in the Air Force, serving as Chief of Pediatrics at USAF Hospital at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia. Buzz and Pat later settled down in Waterford, Conn., where they raised their four children.

Buzz began private practice when he joined the New London Pediatric Associates in 1966. Twelve years later he opened a solo practice in East Lyme, Conn. Dr. Buzz, with the help of an observant patient's mother, facilitated the first diagnosis of Lyme disease in our area when three patients from the same Lyme, Conn. neighborhood presented with similar symptoms to three different doctors. He was later recognized by the New York City media as an expert in Lyme disease. True to form, Buzz became a passionate scholar of this emerging disease as he worked to help both his patients and the community. During Buzz's medical career, he was affiliated with both Lawrence and Memorial (L&M) and Yale-New Haven Hospitals. At Lawrence and Memorial, Buzz served on the Medical Executive Committee, as President of the Medical Staff, and as Chief of Pediatrics. He also served as a member of the State Pediatric Society School Health Committee for over 20 years. Throughout his life Buzz was also very passionate about service, and helped his community by assisting with physicals for underprivileged children, working as a physician for local sports teams, and supporting various town initiatives.

He was equally active during his retirement, and we marveled at how often he was recognized while out running errands. "That's Dr. Buzz," people would say, "he took care of all my children. He helped save my child's life." Buzz was best known for his empathy and love towards children. He spent the majority of his free time traveling throughout New England to cheer on his four children and later his ten grandchildren including Gaelyn Dwyer in rowing, Finn Dwyer in tennis, Anna and Hugh MacGillivray in sailing, Tighe Robinson in track, and Aidan, Deklan, Eliza, Clare, and Hannah Robinson in soccer. Buzz was often heard shouting, "Nice girls/boys don't win ball games!"

Dr. Buzz Robinson is survived by his loving sister, Anne Cooney of Tarrytown, N.Y. He was predeceased by his wife Patricia McMinamin Robinson and his sisters Joan Johnston and Rita Raphael. He is also survived by his devoted children, Alyce Robinson Dwyer of Jamestown, R.I., Timothy Robinson of Gloucester, Mass., Denise Robinson MacGillivray of Portsmouth, R.I. and Charles Robinson of Davidson, N.C., as well as his ten grandchildren. Buzz will also be missed by his loving companion Elaine McGirr of Niantic, Conn.

Please join the family at a celebration of life from 12 to 4 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 23, at the Great Neck Country Club, 28 Lamphere Road, Waterford, Conn. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 24th at Christ the King Church at 1 McCurdy Rd in Old Lyme, Conn., followed by light refreshments at the Church hall 12 to 2 p.m. A private family burial will held. In lieu of flowers, donations in Buzz's memory may be made to the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern Connecticut, 403 Frontage Road, Waterford, CT 06385.

Condolences may be shared on Dr. Robinson's memorial page at www.neilanfuneralhome.com.

Funeral Home

Thomas L. Neilan & Sons Funeral Home
12 Ocean Avenue New London, CT 06320
(860) 443-1871

Published in The Day on Nov. 21, 2018

