



Randall Michael Potter

May 2, 1950 - November 27, 2024

Randall "Randy" Potter

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It is with deep sorrow and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Randall "Randy" Potter, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, retired professor, aspiring blues musician and friend. Randy left us peacefully on November 27 at the age of 74, following a brief and courageous battle with cancer.

Born in Flint, Michigan to R.N. and Helen Potter, he married Jeanne Slattery, on the campus of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, in 1980. Professionally, Randy was a Professor of Psychology at Clarion University (PennWest Clarion) from 1981-2021, serving as Chair of the Psychology Department for 18 years, loving teaching and his students. He was quick to say that he was "not that kind of psychologist," having studied Abert squirrels in graduate school. Randy played many other roles, as an avid hobbyist.

Randy was the epitome of a good husband and father. He was a caretaker, but provided freedom. His marriage was built on mutual respect, shared joy, and unwavering support. Together, Randy and Jeanne created a home filled with warmth, laughter, and thought-provoking discussion.

As a father, Randy was "the finest kind"... or "fine as frog's hair, but twice as rare," as he would say. If his daughters didn't know how to do something, they turned to him. If they needed advice, they turned to him. If they needed something to be done, they turned to him.

Randy's presence was a constant source of security to his entire family. He loved his daughters and son and wanted to see each of them grow into their best selves.

Though Randy was not one to seek the spotlight, often waiting at the back of the line at a family meal until everyone else made their plates, his quiet strength and character shone brightly in everything he did. He'd be embarrassed to hear himself referred to as "magnetic," but he was. He lived a life full of curiosity for all things around him. He juggled several hobbies at once... with "juggling," itself, being a brief interest.

His interests included, and were not at all limited to: flying, sailing, motorcycling, restoring antique cars, long distance bicycling, playing and building musical instruments, unicycling, gardening, raising chickens before doing so was trendy, keeping a jade plant alive since the 1970s, and closing all of the rings on his Apple Watch. He enjoyed reading interesting obituaries, so this is the least we can offer him. He actually enjoyed politics. Randy was someone who consumed politics across the spectrum and wanted to understand all perspectives. He was always Googling things he didn't have an answer to, and would say he knew "a little bit about a lot."

He was quick witted, with a dry humor and the ability to deliver a joke with a poker face in a way few are able.

Randy's legacy is not only in the lives he touched directly, but also in the ripple effect he spread. A staple of the community, Randy was seen throughout Clarion his entire adult life. Running. Biking. Walking the dogs. Walking with the kids to school or Jeanne to campus.

Randy was preceded in death by his parents, R.N. and Helen, his sister, Jackie, and his first wife, Janice Hartsoe. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Jeanne Slattery; son, Christopher Potter; two daughters, Allison (Josh) Howell and Rebecca (Robert) Stoughton; grandchildren, Xavier, RJ, Kelsey, Monte, and Madeline; niece and godchild, Shana Kramer; along with cherished extended family.

Randy leaves behind two dogs, Joe (Jonah) and Evi (Evgenilamalu). He also

fed the squirrels, birds, and deers that came to visit.

Randy faced his illness with the same grit and strength that characterized his entire life. A burial is planned at Penn Forest Natural Burial Park in Verona, PA on Saturday, December 7 at 11:00am, with storytelling and a celebration of life to follow. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in his honor to the Randall Potter Psychology Scholarship at PennWest University. Randy will be missed beyond measure. Our world has changed and we will carry on in his honor and his memory. Luckily, we have been blessed with an abundance of memories and reason to celebrate a life lived well by THE Randy Potter. The luckier you are, the harder the loss.

Rest in peace, Randy (dad). You made the world a weirder, and better, place. Professional services trusted to D'ALESSANDRO FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY LTD., Lawrenceville. www.dalessandroltd.com.

Previous Events

Burial

DEC 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

Penn Forest Natural Burial Park
121 Colorado Street
Verona, PA 15147
(412) 265-4606

Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Randall Michael Potter.*



December 05, 2024 at 12:01 PM



“ *I am forever grateful for Jeanne and Randy for taking me in, in a time of need. They let me become a part of their family. Randy was truly a unique character. He was very kind, gentle and patient creature. Although I know at times I tested his patience, not always intending to at times. He was very passionate when he came to his hobbies. He would jump full force into them, whether it was flying planes, boating, riding motorcycles, or any other insane ideas he came up with. I remember he was so proud he got to ride his motorcycle at least one day each month throughout the year, because we had very little snow that year. I guess we can thank global warming for that one. He was also the first male I ever witnessed wearing a kilt in person. He definantly rocked that! Last but not least, he definantly was a creature of diversity which made him even more lovable and unique.*

Rachel DeLaney - December 03, 2024 at 02:49 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Randall Michael Potter.*



December 03, 2024 at 10:26 AM

SB

“ I worked with Randy at the university for many years and he was always so helpful and kind when trying to help him resolve his IT technical issues which were few as he was very well versed on Apple products. So shocked and saddened to hear and wish Jeanne and family my thoughts and prayers...he will be missed.

Scott Bauer - December 03, 2024 at 09:13 AM

KF

“ Kathy and Greg Trevillian and family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Randall Michael Potter.



Kathy and Greg Trevillian and family - December 02, 2024 at 09:40 PM

AH

“ They suggest we “share a memory” here but mine are endless. Countless run through my mind daily, but also each day, new ones pop into my head I hadn’t previously thought. He was a tremendous father and caretaker. I’m glad that he raised me well so can survive his passing and carry on in his honor. But I’ll miss him TREMENDOUSLY.

Allison Howell - December 02, 2024 at 08:23 PM

JJ

“ Blessed repose and eternal memories. Randy was a great department chair and colleague. He was a voice of reason in many a meeting. May good memories help his family during this sad time.

Janis Jarecki-Liu - December 02, 2024 at 06:46 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Randall Michael Potter.*



December 02, 2024 at 05:35 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Randall Michael Potter.

December 02, 2024 at 05:35 PM



“ *Dr. Potter was one of my professors at Clarion, and while I didn't know him personally, I did know he was a good man and will be missed by the school and community.*

Michael DeFazio - December 02, 2024 at 04:10 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to Jeanne and family. May his memory be a blessing.*

Laurie Pierce

Laurie Pierce - December 02, 2024 at 03:26 PM

ES

“ I was not very close to Randy - I was closer to Jeanne - but I always enjoyed running into him, or having "conversations" with him on Facebook. He was always incredibly kind to me, and I admired him for being what I would deem to be a "Renaissance Man." His interests were so many and so diverse that I was always in awe of him. And yet, he was never pretentious. He was a wonderful colleague, a great husband to Jeanne and a superb dad to Chris, Allison, and Rebecca. It is also obvious that his students and ex-students loved him as much as he loved teaching them and seeing them become full-fledged adults after their graduation from Clarion University.

Our world is a little smaller without you in it, Randy, but the Great Beyond is certainly better with you there. And to all the family members and friends you have left behind, I am sending lots of love.

Elisabeth Sauvage-Callaghan - December 02, 2024 at 03:06 PM