

# Bulletin | In Memoriam

served on a dozen other boards. He served on the Wheeling Park Commission for 41 years, including 15 as its chair. A passionate advocate for Wheeling's rich heritage, he loved the local park system, helping to establish the Oglebay Foundation in 1996 and serving as a trustee, referring to Oglebay as the model park system of the country.

An avid golfer, Ron could be found on the links at Oglebay or Wheeling Country Club most weekends when not traveling with his buddies to play on famous courses. He also enjoyed working in his gardens and tinkering in his workshop. He was a member of the Lawrencefield Episcopal Church, where he served on the vestry.

Ron is survived by a brother, Russ; a sister, Libby Curtis; children Landy, Marty and Ward; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Sally Franzheim Hobbs, in June 2016.

**The Rev. Robert A. King '54**, on July 31, 2022, at Sunnyside Retirement Home in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He was 89. Bob grew up in Buffalo, New York. He played football and lacrosse at Kenyon, where he was a Sigma Pi and completed both a bachelor's and a master's of divinity. After two years in the Army, he was ordained as an Episcopal priest and spent his career serving the community of St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

Bob is survived by his wife, Regina; daughters Marybeth Showalter and Linda Casady; a brother, Jim King; sisters Barbara King and Dorothy O'Brien; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Melvin L. Plotinsky '54**, on May 19, 2022, at his home in Silver Spring, Maryland, at the age of 88, of leukemia. Melvin taught English at Indiana University from 1962 to 1997. Known for the exceptional breadth and depth of his knowledge, he taught a wide range of graduate and undergraduate courses on both the Bloomington and Indianapolis campuses. In Indianapolis, he chaired the American Studies Program.

At Kenyon, Melvin worked on the Collegian, was program director for WKCO, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and in 1954 won Kenyon's Robert Frost Poetry Prize. In 1951, he won a campus speaking contest with his speech "The Fight Against Cancer." Melvin went on to complete a law degree from New York University and a doctorate from Harvard. Active in Jewish communal affairs throughout his life, he is survived by his wife, Anita; three children and five grandchildren.

**Eugene M.J. Pugatch '54**, on Jan. 5, 2022, of Covid-19. He was 89. Dr. Pugatch was a neurologist who practiced in Montclair, New Jersey, and was chief of neurology at Mountainside Hospital. Eugene's work in endothelial research paved the way for breakthrough treatments for cardiovascular disease.

After Kenyon, Eugene went on to Boston University School of Medicine and Oxford University in England, earning terminal degrees in medicine and philosophy. He also worked on leprosy drugs at Hoffman La Roche. "Gregarious and brilliant," his

obituary read, "he was friend and confidant to the poet James Wright, the scientist Janet Rowley, the troubadour Steven Bruton and the British historian and politician James Douglas-Hamilton, for whom he published English translations of the poems of Albrecht Haushofer for Douglas-Hamilton's book 'The Truth About Rudolf Hess.'"

He enjoyed attending performances at the Metropolitan Opera and was a lifelong Boston Red Sox fan. Survived by his son, Gilles Pugatch, and his sister, Thelma Pugatch Malafey, Eugene was predeceased by his wife, Vera.

**Bruce A. Richardson '55**, on April 27, 2022. He was 87. Born in Oakland, California, Bruce grew up in Berkeley and chose to study in Ohio. He had received a math scholarship to Kenyon, where he was president of Delta Tau Delta, a golfer and a member of the championship swim team. He graduated summa cum laude with a major in political science and a minor in French.

Bruce served four years in the Navy, flying carrier-based helicopters tasked with anti-submarine warfare, including in the first squadron to be authorized to carry nuclear depth charges. He received a Silver "S" award from the Sikorsky Corp. for a sea rescue, retiring as a lieutenant commander before heading to UC Berkeley's School of Law. Bruce graduated third in his class in 1962, was an editor of the Law Review, and was invited to clerk for Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg; instead, he moved to Watsonville, California, with his first wife, Berta.

In Watsonville, he began his law practice working for his uncle's firm, eventually serving as managing partner. Bruce served 12 years on the PVUSD school board (including two terms as president), in which he was able to hand his two children their high school diplomas. He was named "Man of the Year" in 1988 by the Watsonville Chamber of Commerce and in the 1990s was recognized for his pro bono work.

After closing the law firm in 1996, he and his second wife, Diane, moved to Oregon. She survives, along with his children Lisa Richardson and Keith Richardson; two grandchildren and two stepgrandchildren.

**The Rev. Richard L. Fenn '57 P'86 GP'16, '18**, on May 25, 2022, age 88, at Shell Point Retirement Community in Fort Myers, Florida. Richard grew up in Bay Village, Ohio, and played football and soccer at Kenyon, where he was a member of Alpha Delta Phi. He then spent four years in Air Force counterintelligence, partly at the U.S. Embassy in Manila, the Philippines. From there he entered the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, graduating in 1964, and was ordained to the priesthood. He also did postgraduate work at Oxford University in England. Richard moved to Jamestown, New York, where he was rector of St. Luke's for 22 years. He said that he was one of those fortunate people whose job was always a source of great satisfaction and pleasure, and he was a strong supporter of Kenyon.

Retiring in 1999, Richard and his wife, Marcia, moved to Martha's Vineyard. He traveled with a

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curiosity, his brilliant analytic ability, generosity, zest for life and quiet sense of humor, which was with him until the end. But beyond these gifts, his kindness and caring for others stand out to everyone who knew him."

He is survived by Marti, his wife of 32 years; sister, Kay Ellen Selman; sons Matthew and Noah; five grandchildren; and first wife Linda Pope.

## Henry C. "Hank" Kasson III '62,

on June 10, 2022. He was 81. At Kenyon, Hank majored in economics, played basketball, co-edited the *Collegian* and served as president of Delta Tau Delta. After graduation, he enlisted in the Navy and attended Officers' Candidate School before spending three years aboard the aircraft carrier USS Forrester as an air intercept controller. Ending his service in 1965 as a lieutenant, he completed a law degree in 1969 at the University of Cincinnati College of Law, where he was editor-in-chief of the *Law Review*.

Hank's legal career centered on municipal finance, tax-exempt bond financing and banking at some of Cincinnati's most prominent law firms. In 1971, he lost a close election for a Cincinnati Board of Education seat but ran again and won in 1973. Re-elected in 1977, he became its youngest president. During his tenure, the Cincinnati Public Schools faced desegregation litigation and suffered through a 19-day teachers strike, during which Hank's home was picketed and he was hanged in effigy on Fountain Square.

He is survived by his wife, Belle Nichols; sister, Cindy Kasson McIntyre; daughter, Kim Kern; stepsons Tom Walker and R.B. Walker; three grandchildren and three stepgrandchildren. In his memory, contributions may be made to the Harry and Mary Louise Kasson Scholarship Fund at Kenyon.

## Eugene D. "Gene" Ruth Jr. '62,

on Jan. 7, 2022, age 81. He died peacefully at his home in University City, Missouri. A three-time Missouri state high school diving champion, Gene was inducted into the Kenyon Athletic Association Hall of Fame in 2002 as part of the 1961-62 swimming and diving team. After Kenyon and completion of a doctorate at Columbia University Teachers College, he went on to touch countless lives as a New York City public school teacher.

A talented educator, developer and builder of curriculum and schools, Gene became a well-known leader in the independent school community, serving as head of school for the Calhoun School, in New York; the Gordon School, in Providence, Rhode Island; and the Wilson School, in Clayton, Missouri.

"Gene cultivated deep and impactful relationships," his obituary read. "His inspirational and effective leadership was grounded in his enormous capacity to identify the value of those with whom he came into contact, as well as his recognition of life's richness and the responsibility to pass that knowledge forward." He loved fly-fishing, art, jazz, good food and wine, and delighted in entertaining.

Gene is survived by his wife, Rebecca Glenn; his

CALVIN L. ELLIS '63 >  
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step-sister, Holley Pavy; his son, Justin Ruth; and two granddaughters.

## Calvin L. Ellis '63,

on March 7, 2022, age 80, in Reston, Virginia. The top male graduate of the Circleville, Ohio, high school Class of 1959, Cal attended Kenyon on a George Gund scholarship. He majored in economics, anthropology (with honors) and linguistics (with honors); was selected to Phi Beta Kappa and was a two-time Fulbright fellow. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi; chairman of the Student Judicial Board; president of the athletic lettermen's club; and a member of the honorary six-man Senior Society. He was a four-year letterman in baseball, captain of its legendary 1963 team. He and his Circleville teammate, Joe Adkins, a Kenyon College Athletic Hall of Famer, were the first Kenyon players to receive All-Ohio Conference honors. At the time of his graduation he was the fourth leading hitter in school history and held the single-season and career home run records for 15 years.

Cal was one of the first Kenyon graduates invited to train with the newly formed Peace Corps. In Bangkok, Thailand, he taught English and American literature during 1964-65, learning Lao. In Vientiane, Laos, he taught at the National Education Center and collaborated on the first-ever Lao-English dictionary. He taught at the Chinese University of Hong Kong while studying Mandarin and Cantonese at the Yale Language Center and was a two-time Fulbright fellow at the University of Saigon. In a decade in Southeast Asia, he learned 11 foreign languages, working as an educator and education administrator, journalist and refugee relief administrator, before his evacuation from Saigon in April 1975.

In the U.S. he worked with relief programs for Indochinese refugees and ran English language programs at the refugee camp at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. Administering bilingual education programs throughout 11 Southern states, he helped 50,000 refugee children, earning many local and regional honors. Cal then earned a master's degree in information technology from the University of Virginia and had a 36-year tech career with Honeywell, Wang, Data General, Candle Corp. and Data Networks.

Cal gave back to Kenyon by supporting the Career Development Center and generating job leads for students headed to Washington, D.C. The exhaustive photographic documentary he prepared to chronicle the accomplishments of his classmates on the occasion of their 50-year Reunion has since been accepted into the College's archives. These activities earned him the lifetime Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

Early in his Alzheimer's diagnosis, Cal became determined to donate his remains upon his death to Georgetown University School of Medicine for research. It was one of his last ardent wishes and has been accomplished. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Judith Ann Kilmartin; his brother, Irving L. Ellis Jr.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

## Lee T. Dickerson '67,

on July 31, 2007, at age 62. He was a resident of Orchard Park, New