

Robert "Bob" Huefner

April 18, 1936 ~ April 28, 2026

Bob Huefner didn’t just care about creating policy on behalf of The People. He was there for individuals. A visit with Bob was stimulating and full of warmth. I write on behalf of his many cousins who were touched by his goodness. What an extraordinary human being! He will be missed.

- Ginger Woolley

We all loved Bob so much he will be greatly missed. May the lord bless you Dixe and your family. Love from EKaterina, Joe, Ami, Henry and Cassie.

- Madson's family

I was lucky enough to attend the U of U in the 70’s, so I would occasionally run into Bob in Orson Spencer Hall, who always made my day. I never took a class from him, which I regret. Since he was married to my cousin Dixie, I couldn’t risk being exposed as the dummy of the family. Probably the only person in our large, extended family who was his intellectual equal was his brother in law, Jerry Snow, and the only family member smarter than Bob was Dixie. Bob always had a kind word for my father in law, Bill Cocorinis, who taught modern Greek at the U for close to 50 years, which I appreciated so much. Bob “got” my father in law in a way not everyone did, which meant a lot to me. Bob’s obituary perfectly captures what an outstanding man he was. Unfailingly kind, community minded, a brilliant professor but with no affectations or pretensions, loving husband, father and friend, he will be missed.

- Geoffrey Mangum

My wife, Molly, and I shared the experience with Bob and Dixie of our White House Fellowship year in 1967-68. He was a quiet but insightful colleague in a year of national turbulence. He fulfilled John Gardiner's vision of then returning to his home state and using the experience of working at a high level in the federal government to serving in public interest roles at the state and local level. A life well lived.

- Barnes Ellis

The Huefner family exemplifies the qualities and values that the founders of The White House Fellows program so hoped that it would achieve. President Johnson, David Rockefeller, and John Gardner, and other selection committee members would be so proud of Bob and Dixie, their two sons, and their extended family. I urge all of us to read this extraordinary obit where Bob urges all of us to recommit doing what we can to strengthen our civic culture. His was a life of bipartisan public service.

- Tom Johnson (White House Fellow '65-'66) and wife Edwina Johnson

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Bob and I were members of the 1967-1968 class of White House Fellows, the third WHF class. It was an interesting and diverse group, as Fellows classes fortunately tend to be, but our year occurred during the peak of U.S. involvement in Vietnam and the election year in which President Lyndon Johnson decided late in his term not to seek re-election. The result was an unusual degree of tension and debate in the nation and Washington. As Fellows, we all had interesting tasks to pursue but we also had the opportunity to observe and sometimes be involved in some of the resulting tensions. Regardless of the situation, Bob always displayed that calm demeanor, willingness to listen, and quiet sense of humor that marked his career and his life. Our nation would be a better place if we were fortunate enough to have more Bob Huefners.

- Don Furtado