



Dr. Robert H. Ruby

April 23, 1921 - February 15, 2013

Robert H. Ruby, MD, 91, Moses Lake, WA., passed away peacefully February 15, 2013. A Memorial Service will follow in the near future. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to Animal Rescue Groups. Memorial service is scheduled for 2:00 pm, Friday, March 8, 2013 at the Moses Lake First Presbyterian Church, 1142 W. Ivy Ave. Robert H. Ruby was a physician, an author and a world traveler. He visited seven continents. Dr Ruby was born April 23, 1921 in Mabton, WA. He graduated from Mabton high school in 1939, then entered Whitworth College in Spokane WA taking pre-med courses. He left in July 1942 to enter Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis Missouri, graduating in 1945. After a rotating internship in a Detroit, Michigan hospital he entered the Air Corps, serving in the Army in the occupation of Japan. After returning to the states he was separated from service and took a fellowship in cancer surgery at the Sugerbaker Cancer Clinic in Jefferson City, Missouri. He followed with a year's postgraduate work at the Washington University School of Medicine. Dr Ruby then served a four-year residency in pathology and surgery at the St Louis County Hospital. Dr Ruby married the late Lelia Jeanne Henderson of Chelan, WA on July 11 1953. He has four children; Edna King-Grey of Anacortes WA, Henry Ruby of Kennewick, WA, Bob Ruby of Mt Vernon, WA and "Esme" Mary Davis of Shawnee, KS. In July 1953 Dr Ruby began a second military service at the request of the government. He was assigned to the United States Public Health Service on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, where he was in charge of

the hospital. On discharge from this assignment he moved with his family to Moses Lake, WA where he set up private practice in General Surgery in January 1955. Dr Ruby continued his interest in Native Americans since his time with them in South Dakota. He was an adjunct faculty member of Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake where he taught a course, "Indians of the Pacific Northwest". He served as cultural advisor for Hallmark Entertainment Television's four hour movie Dream keeper, aired on ABC-TV December 28 and 29 2003. Dr. Ruby lectured on the Stillaguamish Indians, televised on station TVW and at the Burke Museum, University of Washington, Seattle, on November 14, 2002. He is referenced in volumes 7 and 12 of the Smithsonian Institution's Handbook of North American Indians. Dr. Ruby is profiled in the history journal of the University of Washington, Pacific Northwest Quarterly, Vol. 95, No. 3 Summer 2004; in the monthly magazine Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons, Vol. 90, No. 11 November 2005 (visit website www.facs.org/fellows_info/bulletin/2005/sandruck1105.pdf.) and in the quarterly Outlook of the Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine, Vol. XLII, No. 3 Fall 2005. Dr Ruby was honored with the Whitworth College 2006 Distinguished Alumnus Award. He is a consultant and advisor to the Umatilla Confederated Tribes in Oregon. Dr Ruby is co-author of: The Oglala Sioux Warriors in Transition (1955) Half Sun on the Columbia: A Biography of Chief Moses (1965) The Spokane Indians: Children of the Sun (1970) The Cayuse Indians: Imperial Tribesmen of Old Oregon (1972) Ferryboats on the Columbia River (Myron Eells and the Puget Sound Indians The Chinook Indians: Traders of the Lower Columbia River Indians of the Pacific Northwest A Guide to the Indian Tribes of the Pacific Northwest Dreamer Prophets of the Columbia Plateau: Smohalla and Skolaskin The Highland Runners: A Tale of the Okanogan Indian Slavery in the Pacific Northwest John Slocum and the Indian Shaker Church Ester Ross, Stillaguamish Champion Dr Ruby will be laid to rest at the Mabton, WA cemetery. He is survived by his sister, Marion Johnson, McCall, ID., his four children and his ten grandchildren.

Previous Events

Service

MAR 8. 2:00 PM (PT)

Moses Lake Presbyterian Church
1142 W. Ivy
Moses Lake, WA

Tribute Wall

DY

“ *Dr Ruby was a great man his house did end up on fire but now it is now restored and now I live in it we will miss you dr Ruby*

Dylan - July 25, 2020 at 01:48 AM

DY

“ *Dylan lit a candle in memory of Dr. Robert H. Ruby*



Dylan - July 25, 2020 at 01:45 AM



“ *I know this is late. Dr. Ruby was our neighbor for 25 years. I will miss all the conversations we had and always looked forward to bringing him salmon from the handford reach each year. He enjoyed tea at our house. We are proud to say we have all of his books signed and autographed by both him and Mr. Brown, even one of the 30 hardback edition of his Indians of the PNW. he was a great man and good friend###imported-begin###Mike Garland###imported-end##*

April 17, 2013 at 06:18 PM



“ *My sympathy to you, cousins. I'm sorry we've grown so far apart but saw the memorial and wanted to let you know my thoughts are with you and on memories of the times we spent together. Jackie Haight Halladay###imported-begin###Jackie Haight Halladay###imported-end##*

March 20, 2013 at 06:34 PM



“ *This news is so sad. Dr. Ruby was such an interesting person and always so kind to me.##imported-begin##Jenny Carsey##imported-end##*

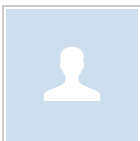
March 04, 2013 at 08:24 PM



“ *Dr. Ruby will be missed. He was a champion for animal welfare as well as other causes.*

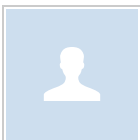
Our thoughts and prayers to his family.##imported-begin##Kathy Aldrich##imported-end##

March 01, 2013 at 06:39 PM



“ *I am so thankful for Dr. Ruby's work. I just happened to be using his "Dreamer-Prophets of the Columbia Basin" for my Religion in America course at BBCC on the same week that his notice was in the paper. Please contact me with any information about a public service.##imported-begin##Dennis Knepp##imported-end##*

February 25, 2013 at 01:56 PM



“ *Dr. Ruby will be missed. He was my Dr. for years. My heart goes out to family and friends##imported-begin##Larry Dorris##imported-end##*

February 23, 2013 at 10:49 AM



“ My deepest sympathy. When they discovered that my husband had cancer in the 70's Dr. Ruby got him to what he needed to do right away. He was a very kind man and I admire him##imported-begin##Pamela Washburn Tea##imported-end##

February 22, 2013 at 06:03 PM



“ I only knew Dr. Ruby through the Grant County Medical meetings but wanted to say he will be missed.##imported-begin##Flora Ogden ARNP, CNM##imported-end##

February 21, 2013 at 11:38 PM



“ His passion for animal welfare, the American Indian & sharing of knowledge will be greatly missed. So happy to have known him. My sympathies to Dr. Ruby's family.##imported-begin##Paula Stout##imported-end##

February 21, 2013 at 07:27 PM



“ Dr. Ruby was a great man and his spirit would always brighten up the room. Although I did not get to know Dr. Ruby very well, I know he will be greatly missed by all who did get the chance to know him.##imported-begin##Bri Varney##imported-end##

February 21, 2013 at 05:44 PM



“ May the wings of one thousand eagles carry you Home Dr. Ruby. Your kindness, sincerity and gentle nature will be missed greatly, and remembered forever. One day in the future your faithful and beloved Sadie will be at Rainbow Bridge looking for you! We will celebrate your life this spring, around your beloved pups when their flowers are in bloom.##imported-begin##Dale & Sandi Casebolt - Daze of Camelot Animal Sanctuary##imported-end##

February 20, 2013 at 06:42 PM



“ My condolences to the family.##imported-begin##Dr. Thomas J. Bennett##imported-end##

February 20, 2013 at 02:08 PM



“ Howard and I appreciated your friendship. It was a joy to work for you as your office manager for many many years. Keith also sends his condolences. I will miss you very much. With Love, Howard and Doris##imported-begin##Howard and Doris Holland##imported-end##

February 20, 2013 at 01:12 PM



“ I have the great privilege of knowing Dr. Ruby over the last five years. He is an amazing man. His patience and gentleness will be a lasting memory. Rest well kind sir.##imported-begin##Carmon##imported-end##

February 19, 2013 at 10:20 PM



“ Thank you Dr. Ruby for sharing your knowledge in history and Native Americans. You were a generous man. I feel honored to have known you.##imported-begin##Ann Golden##imported-end##

February 19, 2013 at 06:01 PM



“ I have known Dr. Ruby all my life. He will truly be missed. I had the privilege of serving as the Executive for the Grant/Adams County Medical Society for ten years. Through that experience I was blessed to work with Dr. Ruby, he was always on the nominating committee. Even after my father passed away there was great comfort in going to the meetings and seeing all of the physicians of my father's era. What an incredible loss.##imported-begin##LeAnne Kvamme Parton##imported-end##

February 19, 2013 at 04:48 PM



“ I was privileged to know and work with Dr. Ruby on many collaborative projects documenting the history of Moses Lake through the Moses Lake Museum & Art Center. I have many fond memories of Dr. Ruby visiting the museum with his dog Sadie at his side, offering his expertise on projects and making special trips to sign copies of his books for our friends and members. He was a fine member of our community and he will be missed.##imported-begin##Freya Liggett##imported-end##

February 19, 2013 at 01:59 PM



“ Please know that Dr. Ruby was very precious to our family. I met him in 1977 when I joined the staff at Samaritan Hospital as a RN working in the Emergency Room. He was often the surgeon on call when I needed to contact a surgeon to see a patient. Over the years he became a friend of everyone in our family and a regular attender at the Bible Study that I host in my home two Thursdays/month. He and his dog Sadie had a reserved spot on my sofa on Bible Study nights. He will be truly missed but we know he has graduated to heaven where his bright mind will continue to learn and enjoy new things for all eternity. He told us one evening that he was looking forward to heaven so he could see Jesus and re-unite with his wife. The desires of his heart have now become a reality.

You all will be in our prayers, please contact me if there is anything I can do.

Martha Wong 509 750-4607##imported-begin##Martha Wong
##imported-end##

February 18, 2013 at 11:15 PM



“ I have known Robert for 20 years through the Grant-Adams Co. Medical Society. He was a fine gentleman, author, and physician. We will all miss him. May God bless the surviving family.##imported-begin##Dr. Bruce Noonan##imported-end##

February 18, 2013 at 10:17 PM



“ We had the privilege of working with this kind intelligent man thru the last two years as we attempted to give Smokiam its inherited name. He is one of the most meaningful people we have met;and our friendship will forever be treasured.##imported-begin##Keith and Bonnie Morehouse##imported-end##

February 18, 2013 at 09:32 PM



“ I never had the opportunity to know Robert Ruby M.D. well. However, he always represented to me someone I admired a great deal by his actions and his optimism on how to retire gracefully as a Physician.

He attended our local Medical Society meetings regularly. His views were always valued.

He maintained a keen interest in everything around him and had a very sharp mind.

His determination to write a history of the natives of this area was remarkable.

I would usually never take the time to write a message to the family of someone I really did not know. I have been retired only a month and as I look at what I will do next, I must say that I appreciate Dr. Ruby even more.

Robert H. Ruby M.D. has touched my life and has made me a better person because of it. I will miss him.

George W. Monlux Jr. M.D.
Retired. (but not for long)
My family and I are moving to Gulf Port Florida to begin a new adventure.

It is my hope that when I finally do retire from active patient care, I can do it with the grace that he did.

I was blessed to have someone like him show me the way.##imported-begin##George Monlux Jr. M.D.##imported-end##

February 18, 2013 at 08:27 PM



“ We mourn in the loss of Dr. Ruby. His commitment and service to Moses Lake will always be held in the high regard. Truly a Moses Lake icon.##imported-begin##Ben Murrell PA-C##imported-end##

February 18, 2013 at 07:59 PM



“ He was a great doctor an a great friend##imported-begin##Paul D Templeton##imported-end##

February 18, 2013 at 04:46 PM



“ Dr Ruby was a great man, He was very kind and caring. I met him thru my many years working in the grocery bussiness. His love for the the history of grant county was amazing. May his legacy in all the books he wrote live on for many generations##imported-begin##Donna##imported-end##

February 17, 2013 at 05:38 PM

BH

I need to go back to the 1950's , when Dr Ruby and his family moved to Moses Lake. I was about 10 years old at the time; my mother had a serious and painful abscess internally . I was in charge of her health care during the day and had to run from school at noon to take food and pain meds to her. Then Dr Ralph Bolton from Ephrata got an appointment with Dr Ruby the new surgeon in the area. Dr Ruby arranged for a gynecologist specialist at the Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle to repair the problem. He relieved her of the ongoing abscess and he relieved a little girl of serious responsibility. I was eternally grateful. Then in the year 2000 , over 50 years later; I was working at the Short Stay Unit of Samaritan Hospital and saw on the schedule that he would be admitted for a procedure. I bagged up my collection of his Native American studies for hopefully him to sign them. Well, that day he was in no shape for signing, but I learned what a team player he was when he would diagnose what he needed; then have me call his doctor to get an order; Between Iv's to hydrate him and bowls of soup and crackers we got him to feel good enough to go back to his residence. He invited me to bring my books to his residence at the Apri Senior Living Home. I did ; and we struck up a conspiracy to finally give a Healing Water Lake a name. by introducing Smokiam to the Board of Geographic Names. It has to this day never been given an legal name; only as the Board called it, 'a PLACE name . He was failing rapidly by the time we completed a two year process with Barbara Aripa; Jackie Cooke Himself;my husband and myself. He was one of a kind; and the nicest kindest human ever. Hope his kids, grandkids and future generations will know what a great fellow he was. sincerely Bonnie and Keith Morehouse.

Bonnie Holt-Morehouse - May 10 at 08:01 PM