



Michael D. Robbins

June 27, 1941 - March 6, 2017

Michael "Mike" D. Robbins

Age 75, died in his sleep at home in Pittsburgh on March 6, 2017.

A graduate of St. Vincent College (BA '63) and CMU (MA '68), he was an innovative and motivating teacher for 50 years, first at Scottdale / Southmoreland High School where he taught English and directed student plays, and then for 45 years at the Allegheny Campus of CCAC where he taught English, Journalism and TV production. He was also English Department Chairman in the 80s and the faculty advisor for the student newspaper, The Allegheny Vue, in the 70s and 80s. Michael focused on using literature and journalism to teach his students strategies of critical thinking that would make them successful in college and life. He was known for his creative use of audiovisual materials to spark writing assignments like the Cave Paper and for keeping his journalism classes relevant with examples from current news reporting and documentaries. For many years, he surprised students and strangers alike by his mind-over-matter approach to the weather, going without a coat even in the bitter cold. Although always working to improve his classes, Michael also had an eclectic range of interests including the Civil War, cataclysmic theories and subliminal advertising which he explored in his website poleshift.org. He also enjoyed tinkering with stereo components and experimenting with music composition, but he always had time to provide

insight and advice to students, colleagues and family.

Michael is survived by his wife of 50 years, Carole Robbins of Pittsburgh; sister Peggy Wingert of Scottsdale; nephew John Wingert of Victoria, AUS; and two children, Jooke (Julie) Robbins, Ph.D, a senior scientist at the Center for Coastal Studies, and Ben Robbins, role-playing game designer, author of Microscope and other role-playing games.

At Michael's request, there will be no memorial service. Instead, remember him as a creative thinker, supportive advisor and an innovative presence in the classroom who made a difference to so many lives.

Tribute Wall



“ *Michael D. Robbins*

October 09, 2023 at 09:55 AM



“ *Michael D. Robbins*

October 06, 2023 at 11:36 AM