



Robert Rutley

December 28, 1928 - August 29, 2010

A memorial service for Robert Leon Rutley, 81, of Roswell will be held at 10 am, Wednesday, September 1, 2010 at Anderson Bethany Funeral Home with Pastor John McLean of First United Methodist Church in Canyon, Texas officiating. Robert was born in Detroit, MI on December 28, 1928 to James Lindsey and Greta Rutley. His mother was a cement sculptor and he fell right in line, learning from her and creating his own. At the time of his passing, Robert was working on a 500 pound replica of his mother's Japanese lantern. Robert was a teacher to many and a student of life. He earned his sixth degree in Judo and dedicated himself to teaching martial arts for forty-five years. He was a "purist" and believed strongly in tradition. For him, martial arts were a way of life. He was a member of the largest Judo club in California during the 1970's. It was not uncommon for you to see him practicing Tai Chi Chuan at Cahoon Park. Professionally, Robert worked as a an automotive design engineer in Michigan. He was on the team that designed the original Humvee. If you're driving a vehicle, chances are, he had something to do with the history of the design. Robert's persistence, discipline and humor among many other qualities set him apart from others. He believed in doing a job well and was a man of his word. It has been said that he "is one of a kind." He had great wit and incredible insight. He loved to talk and meet new people. He was a great storyteller and historian. He never doubted that he could do anything and he never hesitated to try something new. From the time he retired in his 60's, until the day he died, he taught himself as many things as he could

including the guitar, knife-making, tai chi, and poetry. He was a dog lover. His steadfast companion, a german shorthair named Bergseiker was always by his side. Robert is survived by his wife, Patricia L. Rutley of Roswell; one sister Alana Chaney and her husband Richard O'Kelly of Tucson, AZ; two brothers: Ronny Chaney and wife Sharon of Chesterfield, MI, and Gary Chaney of Ft. Lauderdale, FL; one sister-in-law Shirley McKennan of Chesterfield, MI; four daughters: Jill Rutli of Lynchburg, VA, Kelly Walker of Charlotte, NC, Hilary Schubert (Thomas) of Ashburn, VA, and Kimberly Rutley of Albuquerque, NM; two sons: James Rutley and wife Michele of Carlsbad, NM, and Hugh Rutley of Kingsport, TN; eight grandchildren: Mina and Ellie Schubert, Casey, Hannah, and Pearl Rutley, Aidan Rutley, Gavin Garcia, and Hunter Garcia. Robert is preceded in death by his parents and two sons, Robert Leon Rutley Jr. and Mark Cameron Rutley. In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Roswell Humane Society. Please take a moment to share your thoughts and memories with the family in the online register book at andersonbethany.com Care has been entrusted to Anderson-Bethany Funeral Home and Crematory.

Tribute Wall

ML

“ *My deepest sympathy to family. Pat and Jim, Kimberly, God bless you. Marlow Lopez, South Bay YMCA, Chula Vista.*

Marlow Lopez - September 22, 2025 at 08:29 AM



“ *Robert Rutley*

December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM

PE

“ *Thank you Bob for existing while I also did. You changed my life for the better. I am sad to learn of your passing, yet I am sure the world will be stronger now that you have touched it. Thank you Bob. Maybe someday we can get another donut and finally play that hank song. I miss you terribly.*

Pete - June 01, 2020 at 08:28 AM

CB

“ *Dear Pat, Kim, and family; I was greatly saddened by the news of Robert's passing. Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. I miss you and think of past times often. God bless you all. Carol B*

Carol Brady - September 11, 2010 at 08:53 AM

JR

“ *I would also like to thank the staff of Anderson Bethany. You had to make difficult decisions and I appreciate your compassion and professionalism. Thank you and God Bless you!*

Jim Rutley - September 06, 2010 at 02:08 PM

JR

“ A sincere thanks to family, friends, neighbors, coworkers and fellow students for the compassionate outpouring of sympathy for my mother and our family. Within hours of my father's passing, we received sympathetic support in the form of personal visits, phone calls and letters. We are truly blessed and grateful to have so many people respond in a manner that touched my family's heart. I saw judo students that I hadn't seen in 30 years at our service. Thank you for the beautiful eulogies shared at the service. Many of you eulogized that you thought my father would live forever...if you saw the handful of projects that he was working on you could see that he thought the same thing! At the time of his passing, he was working on his Japanese Latern replica of his mothers, publishing his poetry and honing his knifemaking craft. I admired his passion at stimulating his brain! Thank you and God Bless You

Jim Rutley - September 06, 2010 at 02:04 PM

GG

“ Ms Rutley, Jim My family is saddened by the passing of Mr. Rutley, you are in our thoughts and prayers. He beat me up the first day in Judo without touching me. I will never forget what he taught me -he opened my eyes to sensitivity. Some time afterward, it was no accident when I met Ms. Rutley while seeking a tax accountant. I will be seeing Jim at his office in my line of work and think of Mr. Rutley everytime. I draw strength from him still and believe Patricia and Jim does also. I will miss him.

Gary Gourley - September 06, 2010 at 10:03 AM

LM

“ *SEnsei Robert Rutley.....Patricia his wife. I love you both so much! Robert and you will always be welcome in my home Roger Moore is my husband he trained under Mr Rutley when roger was young with John George as his best friend. I will carry on his teachings and encourage others to also. He will never be forgotten. Lenore*

Lenore Dawnstar Moore - September 04, 2010 at 01:21 PM

JW

“ *Dear Rutley family, I am so sorry for your loss. Mr. Rutley was a true character who will be greatly missed. I spent much of my teen years at your house and remember how he made me laugh. He called the microwave a "super cooker" and always called me by my first and last names. He'd say "Is that Jennifer Wiggins over here again?" And as gruff as he was, I knew he was just a sweetheart. He was an original and will be truly missed.*

Jennifer Wiggins - September 01, 2010 at 06:37 PM

CM

“ *Dear Patricia, We are truly saddened by Your loss. We wish You the greatest strength and support during Your bereavement.
Sincerely, Clyde & Michael Maynard*

Clyde & Michael Maynard - September 01, 2010 at 11:27 AM

RJ

“ *Wishing your family peace, support and prayers during your time of sorrow.*

Rufus Greene Jr. - September 01, 2010 at 11:14 AM

BG

“ Robert Rutley was a fantastic teacher. I owe a great deal to him. The words that come to my mind when thinking about Mr. Rutley are discipline, honor, and humor. The truth about a great teacher is that they impact you for life and their legacy lives on. I am very proud and honored to have had Robert Rutley as a teacher and mark as one of the best I have had the privilege of knowing. Thank you to the Rutley family: Pat, Jim, Hugh, Hilary, and Kim...too many happy thoughts of the Dojo. Thank you.

Billy Gallagher - August 31, 2010 at 08:48 PM

JJ

“ To the Rutley Family-My condolences on the passing of Mr. Rutley. I got to know Mr. Rutley while working at the Powerblock Gym. I really enjoyed listening to Mr. Rutley recount all of the things he had accomplished in his life. Whether it was his days as a bounty hunter or training in the Orient with Steven Seagal, Mr. Rutley squeezed a lot of life into his 81 years. He was a prime example of how to live your life. I respect and admire how he lived. Godspeed Mr. Rutley, You will be missed.

Jimmy Serna Jr. - August 31, 2010 at 08:45 PM

AD

“ Patricia and family - Bill and I have been deeply saddened to learn of Robert's passing. We feel very blessed for the time we spent with him on Saturday. He was was a very special man with many gifts and talents. We know he meant the world to you and that you will never stop missing him. We send you our love, prayers, and sincere, deepest condolences. Ann and Bill Daily
“The golden moments in the stream of life rush past us and we see nothing but sand; the angels come to visit us, and we only know them when they are gone.” George Eliot

Ann and Bill Daily - August 31, 2010 at 12:21 PM

KB

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of Bob. As a youngster, I always held a healthy fear of "Cowboy Bob" but always enjoyed listening to his stories and being around him. He was an endless source of laughter for all of us with his shenanigans and "what the heck?" actions -- a sledgehammer for a Christmas gift? Really? :-) But as I grew older I developed a sense of understanding that "The Shadow Master" was a true renaissance man who lived by his own rules. He raised a great family, and we're all better off having known him. Rest in peace, Mr. Rutley. I'm sure you've got Jesus in a headlock right now...
With much love and remembrance, J Kevin Ballard Stephanie,
James and Brodie

Kevin Ballard - August 31, 2010 at 12:16 PM

MC

“ Dear Rutley Family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time.

Mario Contreras - August 31, 2010 at 11:57 AM

IH

“ Dear Rutley Family, May we send our thoughts of care and sympathy to the entire family. In the past years we have enjoyed the Rutley family through Amy and Shallyn. Mr. Rutley was so involved with his kids and family. We admired him for his many talents. We will not be in Roswell at the time of the service, but our thoughts and prayers are with each of you. Sincerely, The Halls

Ivan and Martha Hall - August 31, 2010 at 11:13 AM

MM

“ *Hillary - Sorry to hear of your father's death. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*
Matt

Matthew Mulliken - August 31, 2010 at 10:30 AM

GH

“ *Dear Rutley Family, your father taught my daughter Judo many years ago. When I first met him I was worried because he was so gruff and intimidating, but then, as I watched him teach and saw him beaming as each child met and exceeded his expectations, I saw a beautiful heart shining through that gruff exterior. He was such a unique individual! He made a lasting impression on me and my daughter, the skills he taught her gave her so much confidence and that confidence carried her through many difficult times. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time.*

Georgianna Hunt - August 31, 2010 at 09:06 AM

DE

“ *Kim, I am praying for you and your family during this difficult time. I'm here if you need a friend.*

Dyan Ellington - August 31, 2010 at 08:42 AM

PP

“ *Hugh, My thoughts are with you and your family, the Pantoja family*

Paul Pantoja - August 30, 2010 at 07:40 PM