

6/20/2019

Celebration of Bob Kuhn's Life
Milo Schield' s Eulogy

Bob Kuhn was dealt a bad body: a body that left him increasingly vulnerable to medical problems. A body that would be less and less able to support a normal lifestyle.

Bob had good reasons to feel like fate had played a cruel trick on him. That fate had destined him to a life that was increasingly unbearable -- unlivable. He had strong reasons to feel discouraged, disheartened, despondent, and despairing.

But ... Bob never played the victim card. Of if he did, it was temporary.

When he talked about his condition or problems, Bob spoke in a matter-of-fact way. This happened; we went here; they did this; this is where I'm at now. He spoke descriptively. And when he added some evaluation, he spoke diminutively. I'm not doing great; Yes, things are a bit worse; I can't do this anymore. Bob accepted his situation as a fact. It was a fact like the weather. He couldn't change either of them.

But ... within a certain space, he remained in control of his life. Bob focused on using his power of choice. He maintained control over his mind: how he responded, how he let things affect him.

In my eyes, Bob is a hero. I'm proud that he called me his friend.

I want to shift my focus at this point. I think this event was misnamed. Instead of "the Bob event", this should be "the Bob and Carol event". Yes, Bob is gone and Carol is here, but they lived as husband and wife while Bob's situation got worse and worse.

Bob and Carol had some differences on religion and politics. But from what I could see, they always respected each other. They both had their integrity -- they were both true to their values.

More importantly, each could see that goodness in the other. They admired, respected and honored that goodness. They focused on their shared virtues rather than their different values.

Carol has spent a good part of her life being Bob's caretaker. For some, that would have been a complete waste of time and energy. And if they acted as a life-long caretaker, it would be a matter of duty -- till death do us part.

Carol pledged "till death do us part". But ... I never saw her play the victim card.

It would so easy for her to resent the role had had been thrust into. No matter what Bob's condition, Carol found bits of joy and happiness in her relationship with Bob. When Bob was dying in hospice, Carol spoke to him in a very loving caring way.

As we were leaving, Carol said, "I'm honored to have been with him." That's why I consider Carol a hero. She too had choice. She had many reasons to become resentful, spiteful and downright unhappy. I'm sure there were days when she felt those feelings. But she had choice. She choose to seek and find the goodness in Bob and in their relationship.

Bob and Carol were a beautiful love story. They deeply loved each other. I have the highest respect and admiration for both of them. Their example gives the rest of us emotional fuel to do the best with what we have, to seek out goodness and to honor and uphold virtue. I'm grateful for the time we've spent together. Thank you Bob and Carol.