



## John Donald Robb Jr.

July 13, 2014

ROBB, John Donald, Jr.

An award-winning lawyer who was also a passionate and tireless advocate of the poor and homeless, died on July 13, 2014 at the age of 90. He was the much beloved father of John D. Robb III, Celeste Robb-Nicholson, Ellen Bea Robb, Bradford Hight Robb, George Geoffrey Robb, and David Robb. He also leaves 20 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and is survived by his two sisters, Priscilla McDonnell and Nancy Briggs. His wife of 68 years, Peggy, died in May. John moved to New Mexico to be with his parents John and Harriet Robb, who moved to Albuquerque in 1941. John's father was the Dean of the College of Fine Arts at UNM and founded the John Donald Robb Archive of Southwestern Music and UNM's Robb Musical Trust, which John eagerly supported during the past 25 years. John was educated at Yale and UNM, and received his law degree from the University of Minnesota. He was proud to be a partner of the Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin and Robb law firm in Albuquerque, where since 1951 he focused mainly on environmental and natural resources law and litigation. He is listed in The Best Lawyers in America and was awarded the Outstanding Lawyer of the Year and also the Distinguished Service Award by the State Bar of New Mexico for his local efforts. At the national level, he served as the past National Chairman of the American Bar Association Committee on Atomic Energy and also as National Chairman of the ABA's Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants which propelled him into a special calling to fight for equal justice

before the law for the poor and homeless in our country. He helped establish the Legal Services Corporation, a federally funded program to provide legal aid for those who cannot afford it. Without his persistence, the ABA states that “Legal Services, the Corporation as we know it, may not even exist today”. John also served the Christian Legal Society as chairman and director of its Public Ministries Committee, developing and expanding Christian legal aid in many parts of the country and inspiring similar programs overseas. Hundreds of thousands of desperate people have been helped through such secular and faith-based efforts. John was a vibrant follower of Jesus Christ who shined with His light and love, quietly helping people less fortunate than himself with great generosity and humility. He always had an upbeat, positive attitude, encouraging and inspiring all those around him. He felt called to “speak up for people who could not speak for themselves,” and defend their rights, as fellow human beings. He will be greatly missed by all those whose lives he touched. John firmly believed in Jesus’ promise, “For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.” We have confidence that he is with the Lord that he loved and served so enthusiastically and with the love of his life, Peggy. His memorial service will be Thursday, July 24, 2014, 10:00 a.m., at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8600 Academy Rd. NE in Albuquerque. In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to one of these organizations that John loved and supported: Gospel Justice Initiative, 1750 Grandstand Pl., Ste. 1, Elgin, IL 60123 (legal aid for the poor); Joy Junction, 4500 2nd St SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105 (ministry to the homeless); UNM<sup>[SEP]</sup> John Donald Robb Musical Trust,<sup>[SEP]</sup> MSC 04-2570<sup>[SEP]</sup> College of Fine Arts,<sup>[SEP]</sup> 1 University of New Mexico<sup>[SEP]</sup> Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001 (advances his father’s musical legacy and the music of the Southwest). Please visit our online guestbook for John at [www.FrenchFunerals.com](http://www.FrenchFunerals.com).

FRENCH - Westside  
9300 Golf Course Rd NW

505-897-0300

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUL **24.** 10:00 AM (MT)

Heights Cumberland Presbyterian  
8600 Academy Rd. NE  
Albuquerque, NM

# Tribute Wall

KS

“ So sorry to read of his passing. Was just sharing a story about his father and mother, dear family friends- in anticipation of a future trip to NM and went online to share Sandy's video and read of Mr Robb's passing. On behalf of the Ames family ( family of Morgan and Jane) and Carroll family ( Stephen and Pauline) long- time family friends from Dering Harbor, Shelter Island I send love and condolences to the entire Robb family.



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**Kelly Ames Smith** - October 06, 2014 at 08:07 AM

SC

“ John was my mentor and friend. We served together on Christian Legal Society's BOar of Directors from 1994 until 2000 when John cam out of retirement and served as the National Director of Christian Legal Society's Legal Aid Ministries that continues to grow today because of John Robb's inspirational leadership. Rest in God's peace, John.

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**Samuel B. Casey** - September 29, 2014 at 10:44 AM

DA

“ I have known Mr. Robb since I was born. My Dad, Jackson Akin was his law partner for 60 plus years. They always had offices next door to each other. My Dad always would brag that in all those years, there was "never a harsh word" between he and John. John would often jokingly reply to my Dad: "There's still time Jack!" Not only were they colleagues but very dear friends. Now they are both in Heaven.

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**Don J Akin** - August 18, 2014 at 11:30 AM

ES

“*Mr. Robb. Oh, I just can't get over it, it is so heartbreaking to think we won't see him daily.*

*But I am grateful and so blessed to have had the time given with him, even if to just hear his voice coming down the hall at work, alerting us all of his presence. Now I know what he meant when he came down the hall joyfully chuckling and exclaiming "Hello, Hello, I'm here!"*

*What he really was saying "Yes, wake up, wake up, because a great soul is in your presence! Don't miss out in the moments that God gives you to be great, we are all people of His Greatness because we are fearfully and wonderfully made!"*

*I will forever be changed.*

*Erica Segovia*

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**Erica Segovia** - July 25, 2014 at 03:39 PM

CS

“*Today's memorial was lovely in giving tribute to a truly great man who gave to so many in so many ways. And indeed God was praised and given glory through John's tireless and extraordinary efforts, encouraging words and counsel, and infectious positive attitude. He and Peggy hold a big place in my heart! Prayers and much love to his and Peggy's beautiful family.*



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**Cheryl Sharps** - July 24, 2014 at 07:52 PM

BM

“ I would be remiss not to tell a short story about my dear friend John. Many, many years ago we represented different defendants in a mail fraud case. One of the witnesses for the government was towering Raymond Burr, the movie and television actor. Unbeknownst to John, the prosecution and I agreed that Raymond Burr's television character's name, Perry Mason, would not be mentioned during the trial. After I cross-examined Mr. Burr, which was helpful to both of our clients, John jumped out of his chair, walked over to the podium, and stated to the federal judge that he had a couple of questions. As he slumped over the podium and looked Mr. Burr in the eye, he asked, "Mr. Burr, aren't you commonly known on national television as Perry Mason?" The prosecution and I objected, the federal judge asked John why he would ask that question; didn't he know about the agreement not to mention that name? John answered, "No, sir, but in my defense, I have two young sons who will read the newspaper tomorrow and read that Raymond Burr, known by all as Perry Mason, was a witness in this case. If I don't ask him any questions, they will think their dad is not a very good lawyer." The prosecutor and I immediately withdrew our objections and the judge stated, "that's a pretty good reason so let the record stand." Sure enough, it was in the paper the next day and John was the star.

He was a great lawyer, a great man, and a great friend who will be sorely missed.

*Bill Marchiondo*

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**Bill Marchiondo** - July 21, 2014 at 02:21 PM

PA

“ So sorry to hear of his passing. We lived across the street from him on LaHacienda. Prayers and thoughts for the family. Paul Adams

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**Paul Adams** - July 18, 2014 at 06:12 AM

TJ

“ *On behalf of the French Family of Companies, we express our deepest condolences.* ”

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**Tom Jordan** - July 17, 2014 at 12:18 PM