



Ross Morris

August 2, 1945 - December 10, 2018

B. Ross Morris, a man for all seasons - a renaissance man, a self-proclaimed pirate, was born on August 2, 1945 to Ed and Betsy (Ross) Morris. Ross, an intensely private person with a gift for languages, spent his life studying history, architecture, mathematics and economics. He applied his knowledge and creativity to long-range economic forecasting, investment advising, and designing the families' personal homes and Montessori schools in the Rockwall area. He grew up in Kansas City, and graduated from Shawnee Mission North High School. He married Norma Jean Hilliard in Bonner Springs, Kansas in 1971.

His investment career spanned from the brokerage firm of Harris Upham-Kansas City, The American Capitalist (his own brokerage firm) and First National Bank of Kansas City, to Director of Investment Research for First International Investment Management (holding company of First National Bank of Dallas). He left banking in 1982 to manage private investments and import European sports cars. Other achievements beyond his investment career included: serving as a Heath City Alderman and board member of The Rockwall County Library, inventing a motor-less residential pool fountain, establishing and importing Anya Cosmetics from the Ukraine, maintaining a residence in Moscow, joining the Russian Orthodox Church, developing real estate properties, and designing buildings and home interiors for his family (notably the first home built in Rockwall County Texas using cast stone both on the exterior and interior) and helping to establish and develop Country Day Montessori School, Country Day Academy (aka The Fulton School) and Lakeland Academy.

Ross' artistic piece de resistance – his magnum opus, was the design for the family home in Heath, Texas since 2012 which showcases his artistic talent and where he displayed replicas of famous tapestries of his ancestor, William Morris of England (1834-1896). William Morris was one of the most outstanding figures of the Arts and Crafts Movement and regarded by some as its greatest designer. It seemed obvious to the family that much of Ross' talent stemmed from this prolific artist.

The Ross family ancestry also includes the Clan Ross of Ross-shire, Scotland. The Ross family castle, Balnagown, fell to ruin after the death of Sir Charles Ross in 1942.

Thankfully, Balnagown was purchased and restored in 1972 by Mohamed Al-Fayed (Harrods Dept. Store, and the Paris Ritz). Ross' grandfather, William O. Ross, was contacted at that time in the search for family heirs to the castle who would be interested in taking possession of the ruins, however, he had no interest or means to undertake such a complex endeavor and the castle was sold to Al-Fayed. Ross and his family visited Balnagown in 1997, while son Matt attended University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, and the castle became one of the inspirations for the interior design of his home in Heath, Texas. Most importantly, Ross was a man of integrity who loved his family. He loved spending time with them and planning for their future. He placed intellectual development as a high priority in life, and saw to it that his children had the opportunity to pursue their unique potentials through education. Ross Morris, M.B.S., C.S., D.D. (long standing family joke... from The Flim Flam Man-1967), was a man of numbers and history, a thinker, artist and poet.

Ross was preceded in death by his father, Edmond C. Morris; mother, Betsy (Ross) Morris; and brother, Mark Morris. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Norma; son Matthew (Sally) and grandchildren Audrey, Reagan, and Gavin Morris; daughter Lily Morris Spencer (Thomas) and Ross' beloved poodle, Anya, plus cousins in Arizona, Ohio, Missouri, Kansas and Texas.

The family will spread Ross' ashes at Balnagown, Scotland, Marble Colorado, Union Valley, TX & Moscow, CCCP.

See Balnagown and Clan Ross history at: <http://www.tainmuseum.org.uk/clan-ross.asp>

No services are planned.

Comments



“ He was a very good football player at Shawnee Mission North, having moved from Garland, Texas. A good guy off the field.

Randal Hendricks
SMN Class of 1963
Houston, Texas

Randal Hendricks - February 02 at 03:15 PM



“ Thank you for that special message Randal, that warmed my heart today. - Lily (Morris) Spencer - daughter

Lily - May 14 at 01:13 PM



“ Lily lit a candle in memory of Ross Morris



Lily - February 01 at 12:43 PM



“ Norma, and family,

Praying for you all,

Janet Vank Evans

Janet Vank Evans - January 29 at 01:44 PM



“ 16 files added to the album Ross Photos



Lydia Marruffo - January 29 at 12:51 PM



“ Prayers for the Morris family. Ross will be missed greatly

Shelia schwartz - December 11, 2018 at 08:02 PM