



Robert Hazen Snarr

May 16, 1960 - May 27, 2021

Robert Snarr, beloved husband, father, brother, grandfather, godfather, uncle, public servant and friend passed away Thursday May 27, 2021.

Robert was born May 16, 1960 in Salt Lake City to William Michael Snarr and Patricia Allam Snarr “Patsy Jean”. He graduated from Brighton High School in 1978 and later earned a Master’s in Public Administration and Counseling. Robert married the love of his life, his beautiful wife Aura Irene Royo-Snarr. He was a devoted father of three children and two son-in-laws Aura Irene Boscan-Lopez (Marcus), Alana Yanell Boscan (Adam), and Eric Alberto Boscan. He was a loving and playful grandfather “lto” to Jonathan Lopez and Liliana Lopez.

Robert worked in the public mental health system for over 30 years, most recently as the Adult Mental Health Program Administrator for the Utah Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. He provided direct and administrative services related to treatment and managing programs for people with serious mental illness. Robert addressed vulnerable populations from every angle, managing the Utah case manager certification program for several years to address gaps in social determinants of health. He administered the Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals grants, was the Utah Coordinator for the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness, and served on multiple housing boards and committees creating innovative housing programs and supports for those with mental illness. Robert was the current Chair of the Executive Committee of the Older Persons Division of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, and was also on the Board of Directors for the National Association for PASRR Professionals. He ran the PASRR program for mental health, ensuring that vulnerable patients received appropriate care in skilled nursing facilities, and receiving the Governor’s Award for Excellence for Innovation and Efficiency. He developed and directed the Utah Behavioral Health Crisis Counseling program and has provided training for more than 500 crisis counselors. Robert coordinated a Utah team to participate in FEMA training for the Salt Lake 2002 Winter Olympics, served as the Disaster Mental Health Response Liaison for the Olympics,

trained U.S. Secret Service in working with people with mental illness, and was awarded the United States Secret Service Certificate of Recognition Award. He has managed the Utah Declaration for Hurricane Katrina, the Utah Crandall Mine disaster, the Trolley Square shooting, and was currently administering the Utah Strong Recovery Project, the Disaster Counseling Program for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Robert was passionate about spending time with his wife, kids and family. He loved his work, helping others, astrology, music, playing the drums, baseball, traveling, hiking and companionship of his dogs. Robert was the oldest of his five brothers and has a large Irish and Lebanese family with several sister-in-laws, nephews, nieces, cousins, uncles and aunts. He was very close and proud of each of his brothers. He most looked forward to his weekends with them, celebrating holidays (especially Halloween), birthdays, and life in general. Robert would do anything for his grandkids and was always looking forward to the next adventure with them. These passions made his daily life effortless.

He lived his life to the fullest and accomplished every goal he set for himself. He made a positive impact on everyone. Robert is known for his many accomplishments, ready smile, optimism, and hardworking attitude. A wonderful gentleman, Robert cared for others and made a difference. He taught us all that nothing is more important than living the happy moments in the present. There was no stopping Robert. He will be dearly missed. A special thanks goes to all of Robert's lifelong friends, co-workers, neighbors, extended family, and excellent medical providers who have been so supportive, loving, and compassionate throughout his life.

Robert is survived by his wife, children, son-in-laws, and brothers Tony Snarr, Joseph Snarr (Kim), Kelly Snarr (Laurie), and James Snarr, many nephews, a niece, and great-nieces and nephews. His parents and sister (Shannon) preceded Robert in death.

A funeral Mass will be held at St. Ambrose Catholic Church on Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, Robert wanted donations made in his name to the following organizations: NAMI Utah, The Road Home, and The Huntsman Cancer Institute.

Cemetery

Mt Calvary Catholic Cemetery

275 U Street

Salt Lake City, UT, 84103

Events

JUN 3 **Celebratory Funeral Mass** 11:00AM

Saint Ambrose Catholic Church

1975 South 2300 East, Salt Lake City, UT, US,
84108

Comments



“ To all the Snarr extended family, I offer my deepest condolences to you all. As has been stated many times, I remember his smile with each and every one of my interactions with Robert. Blessings to you all during this painful journey.

Kristin Brog - June 04 at 01:47 PM



“ Eileen and I are heartbroken to hear of Robert's passing. In our personal and professional interactions with him, he always impressed us with his intelligence, professionalism and enormous compassion. Our prayers go out to Aura and the family in this difficult time.
Robert and Eileen Dwyer

Robert Dwyer - June 03 at 11:00 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Hazen Snarr.



June 02 at 06:23 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Hazen Snarr.



June 02 at 03:10 PM



“ Robert was a friend, a trusted and eternally optimistic colleague, and a mentor to many of us who work in Mental Health across the country. I knew him professionally for nearly twenty-four years. We have served together on the Executive Committee of the NASMHPD Older Persons Division for all of that time, where he was currently the Chair, while I served as Secretary. We have also served together on the Board of Directors for the National Association of PASRR Professionals. We worked together to plan various conferences and met many times at national conferences, and had many shared responsibilities in our respective states over the years. He was delightful, always smiling, always unflappable, always positive and incredibly considerate of others. He leaves a hole at the national level with regard to his work in aging, mental health, homelessness, PASRR, and more. He mattered and made his mark on many, including me. His work mattered greatly. He will be terribly missed. Blessings and best wishes to his family and all who grieve the loss.

Lila Starr - June 02 at 12:47 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of Robert's passing. Earlier this year I connected with him and he graciously offered to help present on a regional webinar here in the Midwest. He did a great job and brought new ideas and vision to our project. What a blessing it was to have him in my life, even for such a short time.

Tonya - June 02 at 11:26 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Robert Hazen Snarr.



June 02 at 08:43 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Hazen Snarr.



June 01 at 10:58 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Hazen Snarr.



May 31 at 11:18 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Robert Hazen Snarr.



May 31 at 09:57 PM



“ I had the privilege of working with Robert for 20+ years in mental health. He was such a kind and caring man who always went about his day with a positive attitude and a smile. Robert was adamant about helping the most vulnerable and would dig deep to find ways to assure their needs were met. The world has lost a great man. RIP Robert, you will be missed by all. My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this difficult time.

With love and sympathy,
Jan Fryer

Jan Fryer - May 30 at 01:43 PM



“ Such an accurate description, he will be missed. Xo Maria Devereux

Maria Devereux - May 30 at 04:01 PM



“ It's always sad to learn of someone's passing that you respect for the service they provided to family and community. Robert was one of those people. Many were the times I was able to watch him in meetings where the discussion of caring for others was taking place. He always had the interest of the less fortunate in mind. Many programs offered through private non profit organizations were funded by the work of Robert as he served on several allocation committees and panels. Besides all that, he was a nice guy. His smile and passion for life will be welcome memories for me. My best to the family.

Kerry Steadman - June 01 at 06:20 PM



“ Gary & Amy Gutierrez and Tabitha & Steve Jackson purchased the Divine Light for the family of Robert Hazen Snarr.



Gary & Amy Gutierrez and Tabitha & Steve Jackson - May 29 at 11:37 PM



“ I worked with Robert years ago and was saddened to hear of his passing. I miss his ready smile and laugh. Deepest condolences.



Sandra Cerchiari - May 29 at 10:04 PM



“ Deepest sympathy. During Cosgriff and Judge Memorial years i remember Robert and Aura as devoted parents to Aura, Alana and Eric. May he Rest In Peace. Cece Holt

Cece Holt - May 29 at 07:59 PM