



## Robert Thomas Glassey

January 12, 1946 - February 15, 2020

Robert Thomas Glassey

January 12th, 1946 – February 15th, 2020

Robert (Bob) Glassey, 74, passed away at home on February 15th, 2020, after a valiant battle with pancreatic cancer. His wife and children were with him. He was born on January 12th, 1946, in Long Branch, New Jersey, to Mary (Pearsall) and Thomas Glassey. He graduated from Franklin and Marshall College in 1968 and received his Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from Brown University in 1972.

Bob joined the Math Department at Indiana University in 1972. For the next 37 years, he was a mainstay of the group in partial differential equations (PDE), rising quickly to the ranks of associate and full professor. He served as graduate director, managing editor of the Indiana University Math Journal and chaired the Department in the mid 1990s.

Always self-effacing with his colleagues, Bob was nonetheless a giant in the world of PDE. His landmark 1977 paper showed that solutions to one of the most important PDE's, the nonlinear Schrödinger equations, could 'blow up,' becoming infinite in a finite amount of time. This study stands to this day as a prototype for this kind of result in the field. To those who worked with him or studied under him, he was tough, clear, doggedly determined, but also warm, utterly unpretentious, and unfailingly kind.

Bob is survived by his wife of 36 years, Betsy (Hicks) Glassey; his son, Tom Glassey, of Huizhou, China; and his daughter, Molly Glassey, of Bloomington, Indiana. Among Bob's most passionate pleasures were imparting his love of music to his children. He took great pride in their musical achievements and could often be found playing with them in chamber ensembles. Bob never met a dog he didn't love, and he thoroughly enjoyed his retirement by reading, riding his bicycle, and spending time with his family. He was a beloved husband, father, friend, and colleague, and he graced us all with his intelligence, wit, and humor. He will be sorely missed.

As per Bob's wishes, no service is planned. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory have been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences, photos, and memories may be shared with family and friends at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com)

# Comments

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“ ?? ?? lit a candle in memory of Robert Thomas Glassey



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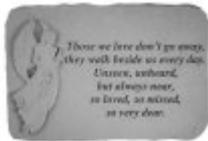
“ I knew Bob and his brother Rick growing up in our hometown of Little Silver, NJ back in the fifties and sixties. Bob was a brilliant scholar, above average golfer, and a great tuba/saxophonist. I have great memories of this kind heart and warm human being and mourn his passing. May he rest in peace with his mom,dad, and brother Rick.

**Bob Hartman** - May 06 at 10:02 AM

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“ Mei-Qin Zhan and his family purchased the Garden Accent - Those we love don't go away... for the family of Robert Thomas Glassey.



**Mei-Qin Zhan and his family** - March 11 at 11:26 AM

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“ Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Robert Thomas Glassey.



**Min Chen** - February 20 at 10:22 PM

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“ It is so sad to hear the news. I miss him so much. He made me feel home at IU. He invited us to his home when I was a graduate student. He told me jokes on teaching lower level courses. He sent us gift when I had my first baby. He guided me in choosing graduate advisor ... there are so many memories. I miss you!

**Min Chen** - February 20 at 10:00 PM

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“ I was so sorry to read today that Mr. Glassey had passed away. I have been his veterinarian for many years and he has always been one of my favorite clients. He was always so kind and compassionate, warm and friendly with an easy laugh and generous smile. I looked forward to seeing him every time he came in. I had no idea about his professional accomplishments but was not surprised to see that he was a brilliant man. I adored Mr. Glassey and will miss seeing him at the veterinary hospital. My deepest sympathy to his family. - Shari Hughes, DVM

**Shari Hughes** - February 18 at 08:12 PM

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“ Cheeseboard Complete was purchased for the family of Robert Thomas Glassey.



February 18 at 06:30 PM

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“ So sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Gina Stillions and Jordan (Pershing) Bowers

**Gina Stillions** - February 18 at 12:16 PM

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“ Betsy, Tom, and Molly, I am holding you in my heart. I can hardly comprehend the enormity of your loss. Sending love, hugs, condolences. Victoria Hilkevitch

**Victoria Hilkevitch** - February 17 at 08:51 PM

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“ Betsy and kids, I'm very, very sorry to hear that Bob passed away. Unfortunately, Betsy, you are now in the widow club with me. Mike passed away a year ago from Parkinson's. I send you all my deepest sympathy. I know it must have been hard. My heart goes out to you. Ann Smith

Ann Smith - February 17 at 04:58 PM

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“ Sincerest Sorrow - Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Robert Thomas Glassey.



February 17 at 03:55 PM

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“ Molly, I am so so sorry for your loss—my condolences to you and your family.....

Kimberly Schill - February 17 at 12:47 PM

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“ Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Robert Thomas Glassey.



February 17 at 12:12 PM