



## Robert Katz

June 1, 1945 - December 26, 2022

Robert H. Katz, “Bob,” aged 77 of Columbus, Ohio, succumbed to a sudden illness on December 26, 2022. Thank you to the caring professionals at Riverside Methodist Hospital who provided Bob a brief but peaceful ending to his fifty years in the city he loved. Born in Washington, PA, Bob was the son of Irvin “Sam” and Clara Urbanik Katz who predeceased him. Bob has lived in the Columbus area since 1972, most recently residing at the Wesley Glen Retirement Community. Bob’s spouse of 39 years, Anna Rebecca (Becky) Rockey Katz, preceded him in death on August 30, 2009. His family and cherished friends find comfort in knowing Bob and Becky are together once again. Bob is survived by his only sibling, Sidney Katz of Washington D.C., his half-brother-in-law and spouse David Paul and Suzanna Bozman, nephew Alex Lutz of Maryland, first cousins, Ellie Katz Blatt (David), Robin Katz Levinson (Bruce), Jeffery Capitani, Sandra Capitani, and many treasured friends across the country. Bob attended school in several small towns near Pittsburgh graduating from

Beaver

Falls High School in 1963. He moved to Youngstown, OH soon thereafter where he worked in retail sales with J. C. Penney & Co. While there, he began his studies at Youngstown State University, graduating in 1971 with a degree in Business Administration. While in Youngstown, he also met and married Becky, the love of his life. The couple relocated to Columbus in 1972 when Bob entered The Ohio State University School of Law, receiving his J.D. in 1975 and being admitted to the Bar that same year. Bob had a passion for history as well as coin and stamp collecting. He traveled to European WW II sites with the OSU history department in 2012 and again in 2013. His passion extended to enjoying other outings with his "WW II Buddies", researching and reading about that time in history, and adding to his book, coin and stamp collections from the period. Bob began his legal career by joining the Ohio Department of Insurance in 1975. At the end of his tenure, he served as the Interim Director of Insurance. In 1983, he moved to the newly formed insurance division of J. C. Penney as Senior Counsel, ultimately serving as the company's General Counsel. When J. C. Penney sold its insurance business in 1990, Bob returned to the Ohio Department of Insurance serving as Assistant Director – Chief Counsel until 1997. As Attorney of Counsel, Bob joined the premier Columbus law firm

of Bricker & Eckler LLP that year where he remained until his retirement in 2019. Shortly after retiring, Bob sold the Clintonville home he and Becky so cherished and took up residence at the Wesley Glen Retirement Community. There he enjoyed new friends, visits and excursions with longtime friends, time with his hobbies, his service in the Wesley Glen library, and all the wonderful events (and food!) provided by the Community. Bob's friends and family wish to express their deep appreciation to the Wesley Glen staff who ensured Bob's final years were full of health, adventures, and the love shared with everyone he encountered.

While in law school, Bob developed a lifelong passion for OSU football and TBDBITL (the Buckeye marching band for non-Ohioans). He attended the Rose Bowl in Pasadena when the Buckeyes played in the 2014 inaugural college bowl playoff game and traveled with the team and band to London, England in 2015. Bob was known to admit that at times he enjoyed the band more than the football; ultimately he and his wife's love of the band led them to endow a student scholarship in the music department. In addition to the music scholarship, they endowed scholarships in the Schools of Nursing, Dentistry, and Athletics among others.

The Robert H. and Anna Rebecca Katz endowments will support educational

opportunities at

their beloved Ohio State University in perpetuity. Go Bucks!

A celebration of Bob's life will be held in the Wesley Glen Retirement Community

auditorium, 5155 North High Street, Columbus, OH on Monday, January 30, 2023, from 2:00

to 5:00 pm with the formal service beginning at 3:00 pm To join the service virtually, download Zoom to your phone or computer beforehand, and secure the required access information by reply email, please email Dawn Swartz at Wesley Glen ([dswartz@thewesleyway.org](mailto:dswartz@thewesleyway.org)) or leaving your email address on Dawn's voice mail at 614-396-4825.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Wesley Glen Charitable trust can be made in Bob's

memory at <https://lec.org/foundation/donate/wesley-general-donation/>

God's Peace to you, Bob, and to all those you touched here on Earth.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Gathering

JAN 30. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Wesley Glen Retirement Community  
5155 North High Street  
Columbus, OH 43214

## Celebration of Life

JAN 30. 3:00 PM (ET)

Wesley Glen Retirement Community  
5155 North High Street  
Columbus, OH 43214

# Tribute Wall

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“ Our great and good friend, Bob Katz, was a joy to know. We first met when he was a senior lawyer at the Ohio Department of Insurance in the 1970s. We interacted on many insurance regulatory matters over the ensuing 45 years. For most of those years Bob was the “go to” senior lawyer whenever anyone needed a friendly ear and the correct answer! No cutting corners! The law was the law, but it was delivered kindly. Everyone who came into contact with Bob appreciated his kindness, his wise counsel, his attention to detail, and his wonderful sense of humor. He worked hand in hand with Director Robin Ratchford, Jim Mosier, Ken Ellis, Dick Gregg, Randy Ward, Bob Yoerger, Bill Rossbach, Peg Ising, and many more in later years. Everyone loved Bob. I had the privilege of bringing Bob aboard at Bricker & Eckler LLP. In his role as Of Counsel, he continued to provide excellent legal advice to his compatriots at the firm and to many clients of the firm. In recent years, Bob and I got together from time to time at North Star in Clintonville—one of his favorite eateries. As others have said, Bob was a connoisseur of fine food! He was a one-man Zagats! He also usually expressed his opinion of various aspects of the food and the service and the setting! As so many have expressed, Bob adored his best friend in the whole world—Becky. They were world travelers. They were always on the same page. Of course, Becky adored her best friend—Bob. They loved Ohio State. It was an oasis for Bob and Becky. Losing Becky was devastating for Bob. From then on there was an absence in his life—Becky was not there to share their love of life together. Bob steeled himself and carried on, and we all continued to love him and his Becky. We will all miss Bob very much, but we won’t forget his goodness that he shared with us all. –Tom Workman

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Thomas Workman - February 07, 2023 at 04:32 PM



“ Robert Katz

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Bob's passing recently. I knew Bob from working at Bricker & Eckler and thought he was the most kind & genuine of human beings-- super intelligent and yet super humble. He always made people feel as if they were the most important person in the room & his office felt like being at home having a visit with a friend. He was helpful to so many--especially enjoyed being of assistance to new associates (or really anyone). May you rest in peace and thank you Bob for blessing so many of our lives & making them so much richer.

Kathy Feliciano - January 27, 2023 at 05:22 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Bob's passing. My husband, Gary Burchfield, myself and Bob worked at JC Penney Insurance Company. Then when JCPenney closed, Gary and Bob worked together at the Ohio Department of Insurance. My Gary passed on 9/11/19. I hope Bob and my Gary are together talking about all of the insurance problems in our world today. Go Bucks!



Joyce Burchfield

Joyce Burchfield - January 26, 2023 at 02:44 PM

SG

“Hey, Bob, where are I we going for dinner?” No matter where the NAIC was held, Bob always had a beat on the local restaurant scene. But that was only one talent of this truly gifted man. After his beloved Becky passed, his grief was overwhelming. It prompted me to start inviting him to dinner when I was in Columbus, like a son might do for his lonely father. In my grief for his passing, this haiku bubbled up, my three line, 17 syllable tribute to my dear friend:

*Scarlet and gray heart.  
Free lance consigliere.  
Devoted husband.*

*The next time the OSU marching band does script Ohio, imagine Bob dotting the "i" from heaven.*

*Au revoir, Bob.*

*All will be well,  
Scott Gilliam  
Cincinnati, Ohio*

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**Scott Gilliam** - January 24, 2023 at 07:12 AM



“I worked with Bob at the Ohio Department of Insurance until his retirement from the "ODI". He was always on the move, rarely would you find him sitting in his office. He was dedicated, to the people and the place. Something he said often in conversation was, "I can see your point of view, but...". He always respected the other person's point of view. And hoped you would respect his. He is and was a good man. He will be missed. God Bless You, Bob. Shalom.

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**Michael Motil** - January 23, 2023 at 07:56 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of Bob’s passing. My husband and I shared many trips with Bob and Becky including many bowl games to see the Buckeyes and the Olympics in Sydney, Australia. He and my husband Rick shared a love of history, the law and books. Bob will be missed. Mari-jean Siehl*

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**Mari-jean Siehl** - January 22, 2023 at 02:32 PM