



Bob Warkulwiz

January 30, 1946 - September 27, 2025

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Bob Warkulwiz passed away peacefully on September 27, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of creativity, mentorship, and spirit. His family, friends, colleagues, and students will dearly miss him.

Born on January 30, 1946, Bob lived with his parents, Agnes and Felix, and brother, Charles, in Philadelphia's Kensington neighborhood, where they owned and operated Wark's Seafood. Felix became absent when Bob was 13, leaving Agnes to raise the boys and manage the store. Agnes was a brilliant woman who not only taught Bob how to run a business, but also how to make a mean fried oyster. Charles defended Bob in neighborhood brawls and acted as his father figure.

Hard-scrabble Kensington gave Bob's personality a pugilistic edge, but his sincerity and intelligence shone through art and music. He was an impressive student and earned a full scholarship to Temple's prestigious Tyler School of Art in Elkins Park.

Bob's graphic design ability made him one of the area's most coveted artists. After stints at TV Guide and Bruno Mease, he opened his own firms, Baseline

Studio and Warkulwiz Design Associates. His clients included Citibank, Hess Oil, Aramark, and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He called the shots for more than 40 years—and wouldn't have it any other way. He was also a founding member of the Philadelphia chapter of the American Institute of Graphic Arts.

His gifts extended to teaching, educating multiple generations of students at the University of the Arts (then Philadelphia College of Art), Jefferson (then Philadelphia University), and Drexel. He was a beloved professor known for his ingenious and conscientious approach.

This brilliant artist and insightful teacher was athletic, too. Years of pickup baseball games made him a formidable first baseman. Though he garnered the attention of the Pittsburgh Pirates' scouts in high school, he turned down the minor leagues and played for Temple's varsity team and numerous baseball and softball clubs after graduation. Later in life, he became a serious tennis player and joined Germantown Cricket Club, his home away from home for 38 years.

Bob was a gifted singer who would accompany brother Charles when he played the accordion. As the life of any party, Bob would often sing impromptu at events. His Sinatra renditions at the weddings of his daughter, son, and godchild were legendary. Bob was a quick wit, a skillful cook, a bar trivia award-winner, and a die-hard fan of the Philadelphia Phillies (never missing a game on TV).

The Warkulwiz Family will always remember his loyalty and strength as their guiding patriarch. He was a devoted romantic to his wife of 43 years and a north star for his children and grandchildren. They will miss his home-cooked meals, serenades, sense of humor, and, of course, his signature mustache.

He is survived by his wife, Geraldine Winters; his children Jennifer Meissner, James (Lindsey), and Grace (Brian) Clinton; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

His life will be celebrated this winter for his 80th birthday. If you wish to remember Bob, the family kindly asks that donations in his name be made to the St. Margaret School. (https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/GW1707NMcSIUPmIFbrr1OQ)

Tribute Wall

SC

“ Years ago, Bob was at the center of a creative collection of characters who—for an all too brief period—changed the concept of working for a living. His off-beat company brought laughter to the insurance industry, humor to telecommunication giants, and invented an urban myth to Save the Mince.

From the beginning, he was an imaginative designer with an eye for elegant and engaging solutions. As an educator, he became a beacon—lighting the way for the next generation of graphic artists.

He will be missed and remembered.

Steve Clingman - October 06, 2025 at 12:51 PM

DK

“ A unique son of Philadelphia, Bob was a Renaissance man. A “guy’s guy” and a jock (I can still see his sweet left-handed jumper at our intense basketball games at Lloyd Hall on Kelly Drive), Bob was a gifted and visionary graphic designer with world-class taste and an uncanny ability to look around the corner. He nailed virtually all of my logos and designs on the first take. I will miss his energy, his humor, and his zest for life and think of him often - and smile.
RIP my friend

Dan Kreuter - October 05, 2025 at 08:12 AM

MR

“ *The man, the myth, the mustache. Bob has been a part of my life for almost 50 years—teacher, mentor, colleague, business partner, Quizzo teammate, and loyal, supportive, steadfast friend. He is granted automatic entry on the list of my most memorable characters. "Never a dull moment" is a phrase that comes to mind.*

Bob provided me with my first professional design opportunity, which evolved into a collaboration of over two decades, and he was a consistent patron of my work in the years that followed. In addition Bob proved to be a catalyst for numerous connections and personal friendships, many of which are still going strong.

I'm grateful for knowing Bob, and for all the benefits that flow from that relationship. We had a lot of fun. We worked hard. We tried to break new ground. We won awards. We weathered adversities. We had a lot of fun.

Miss you, Bob. Thanks for the ride.

*Your friend,
Mike*

Mike Rogalski - October 03, 2025 at 12:00 PM

SW

Bob was the most wise, funny, elegant guy I knew, gracefully shaping an argument, a vision. We had exchanges with meaning and whatever insightful fun. A host like no other so sorry he is gone.

Susan Weinstein - October 04, 2025 at 10:08 AM

KN

Bob was perhaps the most creative person I've ever met. No one was better at taking an incredibly complex concept and creating a picture or an ingenious graphic to make that concept easy to understand by the masses. His work for our department at Citicorp won a gazillion awards and we were always proud to show off the work that Bob, Mike, and Bill produced. They made us look good, which is what every excellent design firm does best -- enhancing everyone's reputation through their fabulous work.

I met Bob in 1982 when he had just returned from his honeymoon with Geraldine on the Orient Express. That gives a hint to the real Bob - a romantic, smart as a whip, generous to everyone, amazingly talented, totally centered, and funny as hell. Anyone who knew him was richer for being in his orbit, Safe travels, my friend. I know you are in a good place and making it look better!

Kate Nelson - October 06, 2025 at 03:38 PM