



## Robert Rhett Austell III

June 19, 1953 - November 14, 2018

Rhett Austell, on November 14, 2018, Robert Rhett Austell III, age 65, of Haverford, PA and Barryville, NY died peacefully with his wife and children at his side. Rhett is survived by his 93-year-old father, R. Rhett Austell, Jr. Of York, ME and stepmother Carol McCarty Austell. He is survived by his wife of 43 years Barbara Austell, children Kate Austell Elortegui and R. Rhett Austell and their spouses Dan Elortegui and Sarah Caldwell, and grandchildren Sebastian and Benjamin Elortegui and Tess and Thora Austell. He is also survived by his sisters Liz Straight and Sarah Cart. Rhett grew up in Briarcliff Manor, NY and attended The Hotchkiss School. He received his undergraduate degree from Williams College and his MBA from Columbia University. Rhett spent his early professional career in marketing and advertising, but found his vocation in pursuit of good government. He was Chair of the NJ Common Cause organization in the 1990s. After moving from Ridgewood, NJ to the Philadelphia area in 1996, Rhett formed a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization, PoliSci Financials, to examine the financing of political candidates in the state of NJ. After retiring several years ago, Rhett found another interest he pursued with his children: marathon running. From age 55 to 63 he ran 14 marathons all around the US and in Paris, France. He planned to run next year in the San Diego marathon for the second time, to celebrate 10 years of marathon running. He lived an active life and was very proud of climbing Mt Kilimanjaro with daughter Kate and her husband Dan and their friends in 2011. While he had many hobbies and interests, Rhett's

family was the most important interest in his life and he was always ready to drop whatever he was doing to be with them. His memorial service will held on Wednesday January 2nd. at 11 AM in the Chapel of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Rhett's memory may be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Donor Services, PO Box 98018, Washington DC 20090-8018 or to the ImmunoRevolution Fund at Penn Medicine's Abramson Cancer Center, Attn. Penn Medicine Development, 3535 Market Street, Suite 750, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church  
625 Montgomery Avenue  
Bryn Mawr, PA

# Tribute Wall

JJ

“ I have such fond memories of hanging out at the Austell house in high school and during summers in college. All of Kate's friends would always gather at the Austell house, in large part because both Rhett and Barbara would always make us feel so welcome. Rhett always took such an active interest in our lives and in wishing us the best. Each time we visited he always took time away from whatever he was doing to chat with us to see how we were doing. Along with Barbara and Kate, he was there at my husband and I's wedding celebration, sharing also in this important moment so many years after high school. I'm so sad and sorry for this loss. J

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**Jessica Jones** - November 22, 2018 at 12:42 PM



“ Dear Barbara, Such sad news to learn of Rhett's passing. You and are family are in my thoughts. Sending love, Susie Read Cronin

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**Susan Read Cronin** - November 20, 2018 at 11:23 AM

TB

“ Barbara, so sad to hear of Rhett's death. I wish our paths had crossed more often. Warmest condolences to you and your family.  
Tony Brown

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**Tony Brown** - November 17, 2018 at 02:45 PM

CH

“ To the Austell Family: " Remembrances of things Past but not forgotten"

*Carl and I were astonished to hear of Rhett's demise. We were out of town so were were late in finding out.*

*I was also astonished when he told me some years ago about all of his marathons. I envied him both his vibrance and kindness. He truly enjoyed his life and made the most of it.*

*There was one time when I could hardly believe one of his trips to Europe and the pure joy he had in remembering his run. We know this is terrible blow to his family and we offer our condolences and if there is anything we can do, please feel free to ask. We will miss him and offer you our prayers.*

*Cathy and Carl Helwig*

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**Catherine Helwig** - November 17, 2018 at 02:34 PM