



## Robert Benson Jones

August 6, 1951 - January 12, 2025

Robert (“Bob”) Benson Jones, JD, CPA, died on Sunday January 12, 2025. He was born August 6, 1951, in Akron, Ohio to Benjamin Franklin Jones III and Frances Goode Jones. Bob was an accomplished swimmer who captained his high school team at Akron Firestone to the Ohio State Championship in 1969. He was a varsity swim team member and letter-winner at Dartmouth College, where he graduated in 1973. An ardent supporter of Dartmouth, he mentored and advocated for many student applicants.

Bob received his J.D. from Case Western Reserve University in 1976. He joined Ernst & Young where he remained for over 20 years, based in Pittsburgh, Washington, and Philadelphia, specializing in executive compensation and employee benefits, and serving as Regional Director. He joined Aon Consulting in 2003 as National Director of Compensation Consulting. In 2005, he founded Innovative Compensation and Benefits Concepts, LLC, and served as CEO until his unexpected death. Bob was an active member of the International Society of Certified Employee Benefits Specialists (ISCEBS) and served as the Society President in 1984. Always striving to learn, he enjoyed attending ISCEBS conferences, mentoring colleagues, and was inducted into the ISCEBS Hall of Fame in 2023.

A lifelong athlete, Bob swam actively in Masters Swimming as a member of the Colonials 1776 Masters Swim Team in Philadelphia and the T2 Naples

Masters in Naples, Florida. He swam almost daily at the Upper Main Line YMCA of Philadelphia and the Norris Aquatic Center of Naples. He is remembered by his teammates as “tirelessly enthusiastic,” “the strongest work ethic on the team,” “the first in the pool and the last to leave,” and “always had a smile for everyone he met.” He competed regularly in the U.S. Masters Swimming National Championships and the National Senior Games, winning gold medals in events ranging from the 100m backstroke, the 200m Individual Medley, and his favorite, the 100m and 200m butterfly. At his last major swim meet in 2024, the prestigious Huntsman Games in St. George, Utah, he won 7 medals in 9 swimming events. Bob was a lifelong golfer along with his father and brother Bill, and also enjoyed crossword puzzles, reading the Wall Street Journal daily, playing trivia with his wife Debbie, and taking his dog Bentley for walks.

Bob’s greatest legacy is his kindness and generosity to charity, which will be continued by his family. He was a strong supporter of the YMCA, epitomizing its motto of healthy living, youth development, and social responsibility. He established the annual Robert B. Jones Swimming Scholarship to provide assistance for YMCA youth swimmers in need. Bob and his wife Debbie are supporters of the Arnold P. Gold Humanism in Medicine Foundation, of which both of their children are elected members. They also support Philabundance, Bryn Mawr Hospital, Collier County YMCA, and many other organizations.

He was preceded in death by his parents Benjamin and Frances, and his brother Bill. He is survived by his loving wife of 36 years Mary-Margaret (“Debbie”) Ahrens Jones (Bryn Mawr); his daughter Kristen Elizabeth Jones, MD, a neurosurgeon at Duke University (Durham, North Carolina), and his son Robert (“Ben”) Benson Jones Jr, MD (Stephen Dickinson PhD, spouse), an endocrinologist at the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

A service of remembrance will be held at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church on

Friday, January 24th at 1PM, followed by an open reception. The service will be livestreamed at <https://bmpc.org/livestream>

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Bob's memory at the following link

<https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/adaptive-donor-form?formId=fd2f83ca-122d-4a4d-be9a-9dd347730cc0&envid=p-Ej-vYyYCTUWzaR9XmN7ntw&zone=usa>

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 24. 1:00 PM (ET)

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church  
625 Montgomery Avenue  
Bryn Mawr, PA

# Tribute Wall

CB

“ It’s impossible to think of Bob without a big affirming smile and a twinkle in his eyes. He was a master swimmer, but more importantly, a master at living life to its fullest and spreading encouraging words to everyone with whom he crossed paths. Tom and I were blessed to have grown even closer with him in the past 7 years through our shared time in Naples. He and Debbie became our Naples family. We will always fondly remember celebrating marvelous holiday meals together at their club, The Turtle Club and Limoncello. As heaven rejoices in Bob’s arrival, we are left with a gaping hole in our hearts as we try to love people using the example that Bob gave to us.

Lovingly, Carol Beckmann

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**Carol N Beckmann** - February 15, 2025 at 11:52 AM

AP

“ Not only a champion himself, Bob was a champion of others, starting with his family. He shared many great personal stories with me when I lifeguarded early mornings at UMLY. Our highlight was a Sunday dinner we enjoyed with Bob and Debbie at the Merion Cricket Club. My deepest sympathies to his family. Bob will swim well past his nineties in heaven. Someday we will join him but I doubt we will ever catch up to him.

AP

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**arnie peckjian** - February 10, 2025 at 08:35 PM

DA

“ Dear Bob, Although you are gone, as your neighbor of many years, I will miss our many moments together discussing Dartmouth, Bentley, and past experiences. You were a joy to know and will be deeply missed. Our hearts go out to Debbie and your son and daughter. We know they will have many happy memories to hold onto.

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**Dan** - January 24, 2025 at 10:31 AM

HS

“ Debbie, we are so sorry to hear this. Bob was someone I looked up to not only for all he accomplished in business and athletics, but the kindest person to talk to about all topics. Harvey and the Shapiro Family

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**Harvey Shapiro** - January 22, 2025 at 11:56 AM

WT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Wayne Murphy, Toronto** - January 22, 2025 at 10:33 AM

DG

*At the Delaware Valley Championship swim meet on Sunday, it was great to hear Bob's name announced as winner of our lifetime achievement award -- but at the same time the shocking news of his passing. He was the picture of physical fitness and it was such a pleasure to hear his stories about the swimming challenges he set for himself and actually accomplished, even as you thought "wish I could do that." He had a fist bump and a big smile for everyone. Swimming a relay with him was a treat to remember. In his benefits business, his qualifications included earned J.D. and CPA degrees plus professional certifications, At the height of the Covid pandemic of 2022 which halted swim meets, Bob wrote: "Doing 4 practices a day in Naples and a 2.4 mile park to pier swim in the Gulf." To sum it up: Great to have known Bob and I'm proud to have been his friend.*

David Gladfelter - March 11, 2025 at 11:13 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert Benson Jones.

January 22, 2025 at 09:40 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Benson Jones.



January 22, 2025 at 09:40 AM

RN

“ Bob was a lifelong friend. We swam together at the Akron Rubber City swim club in age group swimming. We then swan together at Firestone High School in Akron Ohio. When he went to Dartmouth I swan for the Naval Academy against Dartmouth. He was a great host and showed me around. Our families often vacationed together at Olgebay Park in West Virginia have a great time golfing, swimming and playing games. Did not get to see him recently and miss that we did not get together.

*Randy Nettling*

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**Randy Nettling** - January 21, 2025 at 05:02 PM

JR

“ Ed and I extend our heart felt sympathies to Debbie and your family. Although only meeting Bob during the last decade we knew he was a dedicated fitness junky that gained many accolades for his swimming. His professional ventures were equally impressive. Our thoughts are with you during these difficult times. Ed and Joe

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**Joe Reid** - January 21, 2025 at 04:25 PM

JR

“ We are shocked and saddened by Bob’s unexpected passing. Jerry had the privilege of knowing Bob for over 40 wonderful years. Bob is without question “Mr. CEBS.” But his life was also full of so many other accomplishments-his professional work, his charity work and his swimming achievements, to name but a few. He was as well a consummate gentleman and devoted husband and family man. Not only did he lead a full life but he was so very full of life! He was always ready to arrange social events and get-togethers-and he always had great stories to tell. Beth and I so enjoyed getting together with Bob and his wonderful wife, Debbie, on many occasions both in Pennsylvania and Florida. Even though we are now without Bob in our lives, his impact on all of us will never be erased and we will miss him terribly. Sending our love and prayers to Debbie and family!  
Jerry and Beth Rosenbloom

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**Jerry Rosenbloom** - January 20, 2025 at 09:13 AM

MS

“ I am deeply mourning the sudden passing of my cousin Bob. He was a beacon of light. For his family, friends and strangers too. Bob’s infectious energy will live on with those he held close. Debbie, Kristen and Ben, you will always carry his love he endurlingly has had for you. Thinking of you with all of my heart.

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**Mary Smallwood** - January 19, 2025 at 05:13 PM

VG

“ Debbie, I am so sorry to learn of the passing of your husband. May you find some comfort in your happy times together. With my deepest sympathy. Val (Monty) Gauthier

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**Valerie (Monty) Gauthier** - January 19, 2025 at 08:11 AM

FR

“ I am deeply saddened at the news of Bob's passing. Bob and I have been lifelong friends, from our childhood days at Christ Methodist Church in Akron, Ohio. We were in Boy Scout Troop 11 together and both attended Firestone High School. Amazingly, we both were admitted to Dartmouth College and over the course of our lifetime, we found ourselves in the same place. First Pittsburgh and then years later in Northern Virginia. I remember when we he first met his dear wife, Debby. My condolences to the entire Jones family.

Fred Rankin - January 18, 2025 at 12:23 PM

BS

“ A true gentleman and a man of perpetual motion; Bob is already greatly missed

Bruce Sibson - January 17, 2025 at 12:39 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert Benson Jones.

January 16, 2025 at 02:16 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Benson Jones.



January 16, 2025 at 02:16 PM