



Robert Maxwell Matthews

May 4, 1920 - March 27, 2016

Robert M. Matthews was born in Bath, England May 4, 1920 to Reginald Matthews and Winifred Day Matthews. He grew up in Eastbourne, U.K. with his younger sister Barbara and attended Eastbourne College on a cricket scholarship. He excelled in mathematics, science, acting and cadet corps. Bob was a graduate of the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in London and became a lead actor in a touring Repertory Theatre.

He completed officer training at the outbreak of WW2 and served as an officer in the Royal Signals Corps in North Africa, and Europe. He lost his home and his mother in the bombing on England's South Coast. In 1947 he returned from the war and was cast in a 2 character romantic play called "Village Wooing." His co-star, June Alice Parkinson became his "leading lady" for life when they married in January 1948 for 61 joyful years. They had four children Anne, Peter, Paul and Mary.

Bob continued his military career and received an advanced degree at the Royal Military College of Science. He served in the UK, was a CO in Malaya 1955-1957. He worked in the science and technology field for Ministry of Defense in London. This led to a posting to Canada in 1961 to develop early military drones. The Matthews family fell in love with North America and Bob retired from the British Army to work for Westinghouse and the Canadian Government. In 1971 he was assigned to the Canadian Embassy in

Washington followed by a diplomatic post in Algeria. He returned to Ottawa and in 1978 moved to Florida as part of a family Orange Grove investment business.

Throughout his life, Robert Matthews was an actor and theatre director. He organized shows for the troops in WW2 including a visit from the Andrews Sisters!

In Canada, Bob acted in CBC television shows in addition to leading roles in various Ottawa Theatres. He was a frequent performer at Central Florida Civic Theatre and won their Best Actor award. He was known for his ability to completely immerse himself in a role and his impeccable comic timing. He continued acting into his 90s performing in play readings at Winter Park Towers where he lived after his co-star June died in 2009.

He inspired everyone with his positive attitude toward life. He lost his 3rd child, Paul Matthews in a tragic car accident in 1999, yet continued with strength and therapeutic humor to help the family cope and thrive. He never lost his faith and was a member of St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus.

His survivors shall honor him by living life to the full as he taught them. Survivors are his children Anne Curtis and her husband John (Maitland FL), Peter Matthews and wife Jacqueline (Great Falls, VA,) Mary Loy and husband David (Winter Park, FL) and daughter-in-law, Peggy Matthews (Princeton, N.J.) Bob's grandchildren are Chris, Jay and Nick Curtis; Lucy, Winston and Victoria Matthews; Ryan, Maryanne and Margo Matthews; Stephanie & Stephen Loy. Robert was also "Papa" to seven great-grandchildren: Chloe, Acadia, Ari Elle, Grant, Charlotte, Emma and Eila.

Bob died of heart failure on Easter Sunday evening March 27, 2016. Family members prayed, skyped and sang at his bedside including a rousing chorus

of Monty Python's "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life." Bob Matthews always said his marriage was "made in heaven!" He is joyfully reunited with co-star, June, their son Paul and little angel Chloe. Please join us in giving Bob a standing ovation for 95 years of life, lived with strength, grace, humor, intelligence, faith and family love!

Funeral Mass will be 11a.m. Saturday April 23rd @ St. Mary Magdalen Church,
861 Maitland Ave, Altamonte Springs, FL. 32701.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

APR **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church
861 Maitland Avenue
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701
(407) 831-1212
<http://www.stmarymagdalen.org>

Tribute Wall

JP

“ I remember Bob and June coming up to my cottage (The Nook) in Ramsgill, North Yorkshire, England on 21 July 1997. They also visited us at Laurel Bank, Ben Rhydding. Also a visit to see Tormoor, an old Parkinson residence in Ilkley. Recently we always kept in touch with letters, Christmas cards and telephone calls. He was always so positive in all he was doing and such good fun to be with. Many, many happy memories of a real gentleman. May he rest in peace.

Jane Parkinson - July 17, 2016 at 06:46 AM

RP

“ I first met Bob in 1981 when I was a travelling medical student doing a Greyhound bus tour of USA and Canada. He and June welcomed me into their home in Orlando for a few days on my travels. He is related to me through June who was a second cousin of my late father, John Parkinson. Bob and June were so friendly and generous and we chatted away about their lives in the UK, Canada and USA. I met Mary for the first time too on that trip. Bob was so kind, warm-hearted and real fun to be with. I met with him much more recently too in his new home. He leaves many happy memories for me. May he rest in peace.

Richard Parkinson - July 17, 2016 at 06:31 AM

CN

“ Cathy & Jim Nanfeldt purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert Maxwell Matthews.



Cathy & Jim Nanfeldt - April 21, 2016 at 04:07 PM

AC

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Anne Curtis - April 21, 2016 at 09:06 AM

AC

“ 17 files added to the album *Family*



Anne Curtis - April 21, 2016 at 08:19 AM

AC

*Dear Family and Friends,
Thank you for all your kind, uplifting words. I have attached a few more pictures of happy memories. Love and friendship is keeping me going. It is hard to let go of someone who has been such an important part of my life for so long. I know he wants us all to continue laughing and caring for one another in his name.
We come together on Saturday to celebrate a life lived with joy, compassion, hope and love. Hugs from Anne.*

Anne Curtis - April 21, 2016 at 08:38 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Maxwell Matthews.*



April 19, 2016 at 02:28 PM



“ *Marc purchased the Strength and Wisdom Casket Spray for the family of Robert Maxwell Matthews.*



Marc - April 18, 2016 at 08:24 AM



“ *Our deepest condolences to a wonderful family that we have had the privilege of knowing for more than 20 years. Both Robert and June were a joy to have in our company. Laureen and I are saddened by his passing. He put many miles and smiles on in his life journey. the smiles continue to radiate from his children. May the good Lord bless and keep you all during this time.*

Tony Giorgio - April 17, 2016 at 06:24 PM



Thank you Tony and Laureen for these beautiful words of comfort.

Anne Curtis - April 21, 2016 at 08:40 AM

ML

“ 1 file added to the album *Family*



Mary Loy - April 14, 2016 at 09:20 PM

AC

Comedy is a life source! Love the hats!

Anne Curtis - April 21, 2016 at 08:41 AM

ML

“ 1 file added to the album *Family*



Mary Loy - April 14, 2016 at 09:12 PM

ML

“ 1 file added to the album *Holidays*



Mary Loy - April 14, 2016 at 09:11 PM

AC

Thanksgiving at Anne and John's. We are Thankful for his long life!

Anne Curtis - April 21, 2016 at 08:43 AM

ML

“ 1 file added to the album *Holidays*



Mary Loy - April 14, 2016 at 09:06 PM

ML

“ 1 file added to the album *Holidays*



Mary Loy - April 14, 2016 at 09:04 PM

ML

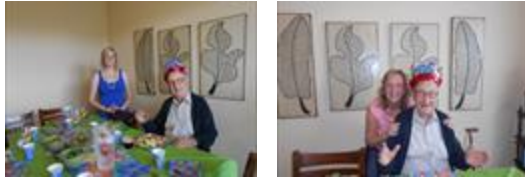
“ 1 file added to the album *Holidays*



Mary Loy - April 14, 2016 at 09:03 PM

ML

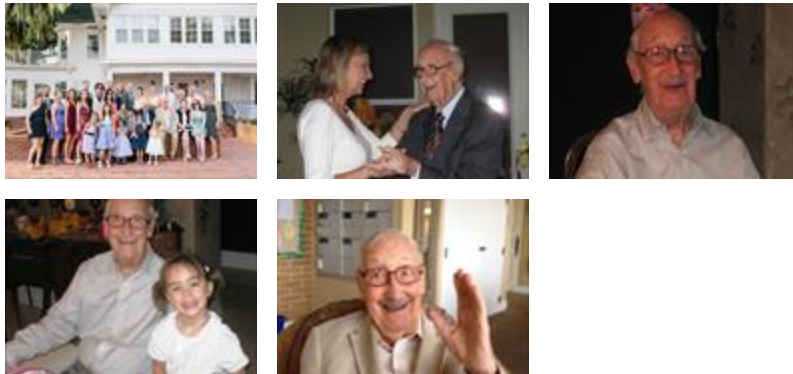
“ 2 files added to the album Robert M. Matthews



Mary Loy - April 14, 2016 at 08:58 PM

ST

“ 10 files added to the album Robert M. Matthews



Stephen - April 07, 2016 at 07:10 PM

ML

A wonderful selection of photos showing how involved he was in all of our lives.

Mary Loy - April 10, 2016 at 09:34 AM

CT

You are truly missed here on the 3rd floor at winter park towers. Your sense of humor, & bright smile made life so much nicer for me. For everyone. You were a true blessing to have here, & made everyday cares easier to handle. You were like extended Family. I am sure they are enjoying your wonderful personality in Heaven. Thank you for lots of smiles, & laughter. I am happy for you. Chris

Chris J. 3rd floor -winter park towers - April 14, 2016 at 12:08 PM

ML

Thank you for writing. It means so much to hear from the people who contributed to his happiness and quality of life at Winter Park Towers. Keep him in your thoughts as you smile each day. Best wishes to you.

Mary Loy - April 14, 2016 at 08:44 PM

1X

“ 19 Parkinsons and 4 Swans xxxxx purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Robert Maxwell Matthews.



19 Parkinsons and 4 Swans xxxxx - April 05, 2016 at 04:20 AM

KC

“ Dear Anne and Mary and all of your family,
We are so sorry for the loss of your dear father. We know you are missing him and his wonderful humor. Thank you for sharing so much of his life experiences in your tribute to him. We learned even more about that humorous guy with whom we shared time at some of your family gatherings. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.
Love,
Kris and Bill



Kris Carmichael - April 04, 2016 at 10:23 AM

ML

Thank you for those beautiful family photos and your sweet sentiments.

Mary Loy - April 10, 2016 at 09:35 AM

AC

Many thanks for your loving support and family photos.

Anne Curtis - April 21, 2016 at 08:45 AM

AM

“ *Dear Anne, John, Mary, David & Family,*

Don and I were privileged to know and spend time with your Dad. He was a gentle soul always with a smile, great sense of humor and full of funny stories. You are all in our hearts and prayers.

*Love,
Audrey & Don*

Audrey & Don Martin - April 02, 2016 at 09:56 AM

ML

Dad and our mother always enjoyed your company so much. I am so glad that you all got to spend happy times together.

Mary Loy - April 10, 2016 at 09:35 AM

AC

Dear Don and Audrey, Thank you for writing this meaningful tribute. Your caring lifts us up! It means a lot to me!

Anne Curtis - April 21, 2016 at 08:48 AM

PA

“ *I did not have the pleasure of knowing Robert but I do know the beautiful inside-and-out daughter of his, Anne. You will all miss him deeply and my thoughts and prayers are with each of his dear family. (((Hugs and prayers and loving thoughts)))) Paula*

Paula - April 02, 2016 at 05:39 AM

ML

Thank you so much for your loving thoughts.

Mary Loy - April 10, 2016 at 09:36 AM

AC

Paula, thank you for this beautiful message of love and compassion.

Anne Curtis - April 21, 2016 at 08:49 AM

MA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mariecarmen and family from Argentina - March 31, 2016 at 10:30 PM

ML

Dad loved to share his sense of humor with everyone! Great photo Marie Carmen!

Mary Loy - April 10, 2016 at 09:36 AM

AC

Such great acting! He always loved playing a funny role!

Anne Curtis - April 21, 2016 at 08:50 AM

JA

“ Dear Mary,

I am so sorry to hear about your father. I know how close your family has been and I know how much he enjoyed his grandchildren. I don't remember ever seeing a picture of him without a big smile. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family!

Jackie Burt McDonough

Jackie - March 31, 2016 at 05:12 PM

ML

Thank you so much, Jackie. He made everyone smile!

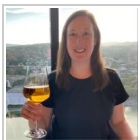
Mary Loy - April 10, 2016 at 09:37 AM

LT

“ *Love, Tim, Jennifer, Walker, and Macall Toohey purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Robert Maxwell Matthews.*



Love, Tim, Jennifer, Walker, and Macall Toohey - March 31, 2016 at 05:09 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Lucy Olivia - March 31, 2016 at 09:16 AM

ML

That photo shows the deep love you shared, always filled with smiles and laughter.

Mary Loy - April 10, 2016 at 09:38 AM

AC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Anne Curtis - March 30, 2016 at 10:15 AM



Selfies with Papa were my favorite...this was one Thursday morning enjoying omelettes together :)

Stephanie Marie - March 30, 2016 at 07:42 PM

ML

He loved his Omelet mornings with you!

Mary Loy - April 10, 2016 at 09:38 AM

ML

“ 2 files added to the album Robert M. Matthews



Mary Loy - March 30, 2016 at 09:35 AM

ML

He was proud to have British, Canadian and American Citizenship in his life.

Mary Loy - April 10, 2016 at 09:39 AM