



## Robert Patrick Hughes

March 15, 1957 - November 27, 2021

Robert Patrick Hughes, 64, a Rehoboth Beach resident who enjoyed the company of a wide circle of friends and had been a pharmaceuticals executive, passed away on Friday, November 26, 2021, at his Canal Pointe home.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, he was the son of the late Robert Patrick and Anna Mary Kiernan Hughes. Mr. Hughes attended St. Jerome's School in Brooklyn and was a 1975 graduate of Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville, Maryland. He joined the staff of Flow Laboratories in Rockville and was director of pharmaceutical services division at McKesson, also in Rockville. Mr. Hughes was most recently project manager at Human Genome Sciences. In 1978 he met his future husband, Edward J. Kelly, a Baltimore resident, and manager for the old Hutzler's department stores. They lived for many years in Baltimore's Federal Hill.

In the early 1990s, after years of spending the summers at Rehoboth Beach, they selected a lot during the initial construction period at Salt Pond in Bethany Beach. Mr. Hughes, an enthusiastic gardener, filled the grounds of the home they built with daylilies, daisies, and shrubs. He often toured Sussex County greenhouses and nurseries to select his plants. They moved to Canal Point in 2007.

Mr. Hughes attended the Rehoboth Art League's annual summer exhibition and was a patron of Delaware artists. He and his husband entertained a wide circle of friends. They delighted in hosting an annual summer party and staged elaborate brunches and other meals. Mr. Hughes was a thorough cleaner and ruled his kitchen in matters of its cleanliness. Friends recalled his sentimental side and his affection for the song, "Listen to My Heart." Pamala Stanley played the song in his memory earlier this week. They were also stalwarts of Rehoboth's gay community and socialized at area restaurants and bars. Friends recalled his polite, reserved, self-effacing manner as well as his loyalty, happy spirit, and pleasant demeanor.

Mr. Hughes was a member of St. Edmond's Roman Catholic Church.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Hughes was predeceased by his partner, Edward J. Kelly in 2016. He is survived by his sister, Elizabeth "Liz" Hughes Legrand (Ronnie) of Frederick, MD; his brother, James Francis Hughes (Beth) of Martinsburg, W. VA.; his nephews: Timmy Meehan and Nathaniel Hughes; his nieces: Katie Cummings (Floyd) and Amy Hughes; his sisters-in-law: Ellen Cora Kelly, Mary Stewart "Mimi" Kelly, and Josephine Kelly; and his brother-in-law, Jacques Kelly.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at 12:00 PM, at St. Edmond's Catholic Church, 409 King Charles Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971.

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.

# Previous Events

## Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 4. 12:00 PM (EAST)

St. Edmond Catholic Church  
409 King Charles Avenue  
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971  
<http://www.stedmond.org/>

# Tribute Wall

LL

“ Bobby was one of the best brothers a sister could have. In addition to being my brother, he was one of my best friends. We spoke practically every morning just to catch up or discuss anything that was going on in our lives that just needed someone to listen. We've always been there for each, especially since Eddie and our mom died in 2016. During 2020-21, we didn't get to see each very much due to Covid-19, but always talked. Back in May 2021, I was able to have dinner with him and hang out into the evening in Rehoboth Beach. The last time I saw Bobby in person was about two weeks before his passing. He made a short visit to Frederick MD to give me some office equipment I could use for my home office. I was able to give him a hug good-bye before he headed back to his Baltimore home and then back to Rehoboth Beach later in the day. I spoke to him on Thanksgiving as usual, and knew he was spending Thanksgiving with his wonderful friends/family in Rehoboth. Never would I have thought that would've been the last conversation I would have with Bobby. A few days later when I couldn't get a hold of him, I knew something wasn't right. He would always answer or text me if he couldn't talk. That's when I needed to find out what was going on. Then came the sad news that he had passed, home alone. This breaks my heart every time I think of this and not knowing what happened. Sometimes in life we never understand why GOD, unexpectedly, takes such a wonderful, caring, thoughtful person out of our lives.

*I'm glad you're with Eddie and our parents. Thank you for being such a wonderful Uncle to my children Katie and Timmy. They'll always treasure their beach vacations with you and Eddie. I'm sad you won't be in person to meet your new great niece Victoria, due next month. I know you'll be there in spirit, just like the great grandparents. Rest in peace my brother Bobby. Thank you for being a wonderful brother. I will miss you and always love you.*

*Your loving sister,  
Liz Hughes Legrand*

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**LIZ LEGRAND** - January 18 at 04:04 PM

LC

“ Irene and I knew Bobby from seeing him at Pamala's shows. A very nice man who will be missed by many. RIP and we know you are with Eddie.

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**Linda Chaney** - December 06, 2021 at 02:55 PM

DV

“ I've known Bobby since I was 18. we met soon after I started at Flow Labs back in 1976. I worked with him or for him in 3 different companies. I was shocked to hear of his passing. he was one of the hardest working people I have ever known. He was also one of the nicest souls to be on this planet. Bobby and I used to make Rubella antigen which contained a lot of ether. we worked in a supposedly explosion proof room that was constructed by our maintenance department. Bobby and I knew the guys who built the room and we weren't impressed by their skills. Not being a particularly religious man, and knowing Bobby was catholic, I asked him to say a prayer for us before we started work on each lot. I figured we needed all the help we could get. Bobby thought I was crazy, but he did it if I asked. he was always ready to help a friend. He was always a lot of fun to work with. He always brought his carrot cake to parties, which was the best carrot cake I have ever eaten. Although we didn't have a lot of contact in the last several years, I will always cherish his friendship. the world is a poorer place with his passing.

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**Dave Vanscoy** - December 05, 2021 at 01:13 PM

SB

“ Scott Burdette lit a candle in memory of Robert Patrick Hughes



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**Scott Burdette** - December 05, 2021 at 10:30 AM

JM

“ A devoted and loving husband and son. Dedicated and diligent worker. Doting uncle to his nieces and nephews. Generous and his sister and i with great vacations to Bethany and Rehoboth. Bobby had talent galore, from his iconic Christmas tree to his fabulous decorating ideas to his legendary carrot cake and holiday mashed potatoes. Ill miss you and always cherish the family time we had.

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**Jim Meehan** - December 03, 2021 at 06:54 PM

RS

“ My condolences and prayers to the family. I have some fond memories working with Bobby at McKesson and will cherish them. He was a good friend. He will be missed.

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**Richard Schrock** - December 03, 2021 at 05:11 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Patrick Hughes.*



December 03, 2021 at 02:51 PM

PH

“ *Bobby has touched the lives of so many people in his unique ways. Fond memories of all that he has done stay with us.....I am grateful to have known such a "Beautiful Person" with an adoring heart over the long years. With love & admiration always, Georginna*



**Paul Hettich** - December 02, 2021 at 09:08 AM

PC

“ *Paul Hettich & Georginna Cardelli purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Robert Patrick Hughes.*



**Paul Hettich & Georginna Cardelli** - December 02, 2021 at 08:54 AM

DG

“ *Bobby and Eddie were a wonderful couple. Love is reunited in death. Peace to you both.*

**David Garrett** - December 02, 2021 at 07:15 AM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Robert Patrick Hughes.*



December 01, 2021 at 06:20 PM

JW

“ So sorry to hear of his passing. Prayers and thoughts to his family and friends. I only knew him a short while and he always had a smile that created more smiles to those around him. He will be missed.

John Worek - December 01, 2021 at 05:11 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Robert Patrick Hughes.



December 01, 2021 at 03:48 PM

DH

“ Bobby was a kind & wonderful friend. He was the first to reach out to me & offer his friendship when I needed it. He was a great, intelligent & loyal listener. I will miss him but take solace in the time I had with him and the privilege of having him as a friend. RIP with Eddie, my friend.

David Herring - December 01, 2021 at 03:42 PM

DR

“ Sweet sweet man.



Debi Rus - December 01, 2021 at 02:15 PM

LB

“ Bobby was a dear friend to both Jim and I. As difficult as this week has been on family and friends, we all had our lives made richer by this gentle soul. We will always cherish the hundreds of fond memories we have and are forever grateful that we were able to call both Bobby and Eddy not only friends but family we will always love.

Lou Fiore and Jim Burke - December 01, 2021 at 12:50 PM

SE

“ Bobby was my dear friend and colleague. I am heartbroken to learn of his passing. He was so full of life and talent. He was definitely one of the smartest people I ever had the pleasure to know and work with. You could not get more authentic than Bobby Hughes. He had the highest level of integrity and I loved him. I know he is with Eddie and his mom, now. Although I will miss him tremendously, as will the clinical trial research world, I know that he is in the loving arms of our dear heavenly FATHER. He is being taken care of in the most optimal way. May God bless Bobby and his family/close friends. I mention his close friends because they were like Bobby's family, too. He would often have dinners and spend holiday time with them. He truly cherished them. I especially pray for his brother and sister, whom he loved dearly. I know he would talk with his sweet sister every day. They had a very special bond. I pray that God gives us all the strength and love to cope with the huge loss of our dear Bobby Hughes.  
~With love, Sandria

Sandria Elrod-Iqbal - December 01, 2021 at 11:18 AM

SE

“ Sandria Elrod-Iqbal purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Robert Patrick Hughes.



Sandria Elrod-Iqbal - December 01, 2021 at 10:22 AM

JH

“ Bobby and I fought like most brothers growing up. Mostly because we always looked at things differently. But we worked through our differences as we grew older and we got along. Eddie was the love of his life and Bobby deeply missed him. So I know that he is happy and in peace now that he is with Eddie again. Everyone will miss you.

Jimmy

Jim Hughes - November 29, 2021 at 06:51 PM