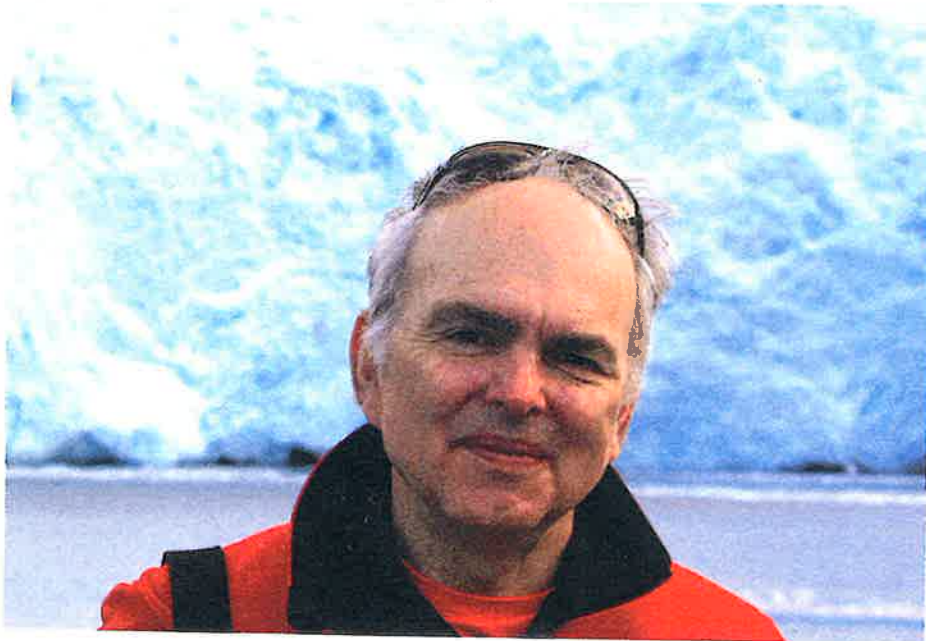


IN LOVING

memory

OF



JOSEPH VAN EATON

August 14, 1953 - June 10, 2022

Lyon Park Community Center
Sunday, August 7, 2022 at 4:30 pm
414 N. Fillmore Street, Arlington, VA 22201

Obituary

Joseph (Joe) Van Eaton passed away on June 10, 2022, at his home in Arlington, Virginia. Joe was born to an Air Force family in Memphis, Tennessee in August 1953, and spent his childhood mostly moving between Hampton, Virginia and Okinawa, Japan, where he graduated from Kubasaki High School in 1971. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Trish Brown; daughter, Ceanna Van Eaton; sister, Cindy Bingham (Mike) and family; and brother, Mike (Janeen) and family. He was predeceased by his father; William Grover Van Eaton, and mother, Audrey Frascella Van Eaton.

After high school, Joe travelled solo from Okinawa to Syracuse University to study journalism, followed by law school at The University of Pennsylvania. His first full-time job as an attorney was at Spiegel & McDiarmid in Washington, DC, where he met and married his wife, Trish Brown. Their daughter, Ceanna, was born in 1987. Early in his career, he discovered an interest in telecommunications law, which proved to be the perfect match for his desire to help the underdog.

He and fellow attorney Nick Miller started their own firm in 1992, and he spent the next 30 years (including 11 years with Best Best & Krieger) helping those committed to the public interest and the future of their communities challenge large companies with big budgets. He loved what he did, and worked right up to the end of his life.

Next to his passion for his work and dedication to his family, Joe loved skiing the most. He skied and took lessons at Liberty Mountain in Pennsylvania for over 25 years, with a group of fellow ski bums which only grew over the years. He loved nothing better than a trip out west to ski Tahoe or Jackson Hole (or anywhere, really!), and even took a couple of ski trips just months before his death, skiing with long-time friends and, most specially, with his daughter.

He loved travel and new experiences, never wanting to go to the same place twice (unless it was for skiing). He always pushed to see "just one more thing," and continued to lead his family on adventures until the very end.

Joe cultivated an appreciation for good food (usually at the latest hot spot), and was thrilled to be able to take a last trip to New York City and eat at Tom Colicchio's restaurant, Craft, in May of 2022. An excellent cook himself, he loved to experiment in the kitchen, and his dinner parties were popular among friends and family alike.

He also enjoyed gardening, calling himself an "emotional gardener," as he chose things that struck his fancy without regard to the big picture. Every year, he battled the birds and squirrels for tomatoes, and usually lost, but in spite of these historic failures he never gave up.

Joe was a warm, giving person who tried to live life to the fullest, even when time was short. Although he battled cancer for the last five years, he always tried to stay physically strong and emotionally positive through it all, and friends and family will remember him for his unshakeable desire to wring every experience out of life even at his sickest. In keeping with his giving spirit, he was so impressed by Jose Andres' work in Ukraine in these past few months that he asked that any donations made on his behalf be to World Central Kitchen (<https://wck.org/>).

