



Albert John Kubeluis Jr.

April 18, 1942 - February 25, 2024

Albert John Kubeluis, Jr., 81

The former Bowie resident, passed away on February 25, 2024, at his home in McDaniel, Maryland surrounded by family.

Al was born on April 18, 1942, to Albert and Anna (Buda) Kubeluis. He is survived by his wife Mary Jo (Steenbergen), daughter Adrienne (son-in-law Andrew Schmutge, grandchildren Julian and Laney, both college students in Virginia), son Chris (daughter-in-law Nichole, granddaughter Dr. Rowan Kubeluis, DDS), sister Carol Libonati, nieces Genevieve, Rachel and Stephanie, his honorary grandchildren, Samantha and Ian Cavanaugh and Cate Hogan and an extended family he held dear.

Al's grandparents immigrated from Lithuania during World War I and he grew up in a Lithuanian neighborhood on Washington Avenue in Baltimore City where Orioles Park now stands. Although they never learned English, one grandmother built a thriving business and his grandfather and father worked for the B&O Railroad. He was a second-generation American who grew up in a multigenerational household that included his grandparents and beloved Uncle Eddie Buda. Al spent much of his formative years at the family's summer home on Bodkin Creek in Pasadena, where he learned to swim, water ski, and explore the local waterways. He developed a lifelong passion for the Chesapeake and its tributaries. He attended St. Jerome's grade school

and then Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. It was there that he found success in school and on the swim team. Al attended Loyola University Maryland as a recipient of its first swimming scholarship. He also earned a master's degree from the School of Government and Public Administration at American University in Washington, DC.

Al met his wife, Mary Jo Steenberg of Beavercreek, Ohio, during his college years, while lifeguarding at Johns Hopkins Hospital pool where she was a nursing student. They were married in 1964 and had two children, Adrienne Kubeluis of Wintergreen, Virginia (formerly from Baltimore, Maryland) and Christopher Kubeluis of Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Al started his professional career in computer science at the National Security Administration while concurrently earning his master's degree. He then devoted 28 years working for the Federal Reserve Board (FRB) managing the Data Administration Division while raising his family in Bowie. During his tenure at the FRB, he received Commendation from Chairman Alan Greenspan and was appointed to the Presidential Executive Exchange Program by President Ronald Reagan where he worked in a one-year liaison position in the private sector for Johnson and Johnson, in Brunswick, New Jersey. He also received a special achievement award from Chairman Paul Volker in 1986. During these work years, Al enjoyed sharing his love of sports and athletics with his children, friends and co-workers.

Al retired from the Federal Reserve in 1997 and he and Mary Jo built a home on Harris Creek in McDaniel, Maryland near St. Michael's. He was a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Creek Watchers, and volunteer swim instructor. He volunteered at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and loved to boat, kayak, crab, fish, and enjoy the water with his extended family and friends. Known as Pop by his grandchildren and family, Al cites his greatest accomplishment as his family.

Al was an avid, lifelong endurance athlete. In addition to setting swim records at Baltimore Polytech and Loyola University, Al won the 4.4 mile Chesapeake Bay Bridge swim race held in 1962 (Baltimore Sun July 12, 1962) while still in college. He ran with the Federal Reserve Striders and in more than 50 marathons, 50-mile and 100-mile ultra-marathons. He was a triathlete before the sport gained widespread popularity. He also enjoyed mountain and road biking, whitewater and flat water kayaking, yoga, and Masters swimming. Always competitive, Al raced internationally on his stationary rowing machine across the internet.

Friends and family may call at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newman Funeral Home, 200 South Harrison Street, Easton, Maryland 21601 on Saturday, March 9th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM.

A celebration of Al's life will be held during the summer.

Remembrances can be sent to the Loyola University Maryland's men's swim team or the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michael's, Maryland.

Previous Events

Gathering

MAR 9. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A. - Easton
200 S. Harrison St.
Easton, MD 21601

Tribute Wall

AK

“ Thoughts and Remembrances of Al Kubeluis

It was in early in the 1970s that I first met Al. The Pointer Ridge section of Bowie was a new suburban development; so everyone was new to the community. That reality framed to social climate for all of us. We, as parents, were young; and, we had young children, many of whom became playmates and classmates when they went to school. A number of them became friends, even lifelong friends as is the case in our families. To this day we consider them part of our family.

Al was, to say it briefly, a complex person. He was smart and accomplished in many diverse arenas. When he pursued a task or engaged in a diverse array of sporting activities, he gave it all he had.

He didn't just run; he ran marathons. Riding bikes became a passion; and he kept upgrading his equipment, acquiring a depth of knowledge about the latest features of what was available.

In the late 1990s, I got to see and experience “the best of Al”. Along came his granddaughter

Rowan. Fortuitously Al was able to retire from his working career. In retirement he became available to focus his attention on her. Observing Al in that caring relationship was heartwarming and revelatory.

One of the realities of life is, what I describe as our social/relational nature. There is not one moment of our existence when we are alone; - we are always in relationship. Unlike our genetic and deterministic nature, we have to learn the skills to develop that into a mature state of personal reality.

For Al, in his time with Rowan; - caring for and nurturing her, he was a major beneficiary, along with her.

We all got to see aspects of him that brought a smile to his face, - and ours. Relationships are, in their essence, a “two-way street”. They only reach fruition when they are

*reciprocal. There is an old saying
that you can never give a smile away; - it keeps coming back to you.
Rooted the religious beliefs in which many of us were raised, is the
hope that, after we depart
this world, our "relational reality" will not only continue like an ever-
receding horizon, but be fulfilled
beyond our hopes and dreams.*

*Henry [Hank] Gromada
February/March 2024*

Adrienne Kubeluis - March 11, 2024 at 11:37 AM

FC

“ *Frank Cavanaugh lit a candle in memory of
Albert John Kubeluis Jr.*



Frank Cavanaugh - March 10, 2024 at 12:44 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the
family of Albert John Kubeluis Jr..*



March 08, 2024 at 02:07 PM

AK

“ Uncle Alby,
I love you so very much. You were the best uncle a person could hope for. As a child you made me feel like wonder woman. You let me walk on your back and even dye your hair. My friends and I enjoyed countless emails from you. You wore the goofiest hats I could find you. We danced on the beach with you, ate your country french fries, and just enjoyed our time with you. We will miss you and I will still find the funniest hats I can!
Love, the Noodle



Adrienne Kubeluis - March 08, 2024 at 10:56 AM

MM

“ Michelle M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Albert John Kubeluis Jr..

Michelle M. - March 07, 2024 at 07:43 PM

KZ

“ Kristiana Z. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Albert John Kubeluis Jr..

Kristiana Z. - March 07, 2024 at 07:37 PM

MJ

“ I was saddened to hear of the passing of Mr. Kubeluis. Yet, I know that I am better for having known him, and Chris, as I was growing up in Pointer Ridge. Mr. Kubeluis was one of those fathers who was there for all of us, and I have been and always will be grateful for that.

Mike Joyce - March 07, 2024 at 12:33 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Albert John Kubeluis Jr..



March 05, 2024 at 05:29 PM

AK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Adrienne Kubeluis - March 05, 2024 at 12:36 PM

AK

“ Posted by Adrienne Feb 27:

It is with a heart filled with love and gratitude, although slightly broken at the moment, that I share that we said our final goodbye to my dad, Al Kubeluis, POP, on Sunday evening. Chris, Mom and I were with him as he took his final breath. For the last 2 weeks, he has been surrounded by family and loved ones. As many of you know, my dad was diagnosed with metastasized prostate cancer nearly 5 and a half years ago. This disease did not define him. Rather, it was an impediment in his daily goal to exercise, find adventure and enjoy his family. My mom was an amazing caregiver and wife managing his treatments and advocating for him. Without her, he'd not have been able to thrive as he did these last years. I'd guess that 99% of my conversations with him over these years began with him telling me he was GREAT! It really did not matter what he was going through. This was his approach to life. Switchfoot's song "Dare You to Move" makes me think of my dad, as do so many others.

My dad exercised every day of his life. He logged it, set goals and celebrated his accomplishments. He celebrated his increase in rankings as he entered new age groups. He compared times After Diagnosis to see how they improved. Retiring at age 55 after a demanding career at the Federal Reserve Board, he found joy in life on Harris Creek. Being here brought him great happiness. The water was his playground... kayaks, canoes, the Rowan Express, his Crabby boats, crabbing, fishing... As he slowed down and could no longer run, he found joy in walking, swimming, biking, boating and yoga. We can not tell you how many electric bikes he bought and then donated only to order another one. Amazon's stock must be tanking this week. I think boating and being on the water gave him the most peacefulness... even if some of those grand adventures turned our hair gray. He enjoyed this lifestyle in the summers of his childhood on Bodkin Creek and returned to it in retirement.

I do believe that his strong, athletic body enabled him to thrive as much as possible during these years. They say endurance athletes have a greater capacity to tolerate pain. I hope that is the case. I admire his courage and positive approach to life, and us, during this time. It's perhaps been the most inspirational part of my relationship with him.

I would never wish cancer or illness on anyone. However, the positive gift it gave us was the very clear knowledge that our time with him was limited. I believe that we (his family and friends) made the most of this time. We were blessed with much time. We spent a great deal of time together, trying to make every celebration, holiday, Orioles and Ravens game a little extra special. With each passing year, we knew we were on borrowed time. Yet, my dad continued to stay positive and thrive through the difficult times. I hope we carry this forward through our lives - - and I hope each of you do as well. After all, we do not know how much time we have left together here on earth and letting those people you hold dear know how important they are to you, is all that really matters. I know my dad felt our LOVE.

Thank you to all the friends and family who have called, visited and supported him over the years. It meant so much to him - and to us.

Despite our sadness, we feel LOVE and know how fortunate we are to have had this time. My mom wishes to celebrate dad's life this summer but wishes to also have a visitation next Saturday, March 9th from 2 - 4pm at Fellows Funeral Home, 200 South Harrison Street in Easton. There will be no formal presentation at the visitation. We will save that for the party this summer!

We'll post pictures, the obituary and more information in the coming days. If you have a picture or story to share, please do so.

*Sveikata! ("Snakes!" as our younger selves would have said)
Cheers to a great life Dad! I love you and hold you in my heart every day,*

Adrienne



Adrienne Kubeluis - March 05, 2024 at 12:26 PM

JB

“ *Jim Burns purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Albert John Kubeluis Jr..*



Jim Burns - March 04, 2024 at 06:34 PM

JB

“ *Jim Burns planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Albert John Kubeluis Jr..*

Jim Burns - March 04, 2024 at 06:34 PM

BO

“ I met Al when I was 13 years old, just a few months after entering competitive swimming. A year later we both swam for Baltimore Polytechnic, Al was co-captain of the varsity team and already a standout, while I was a raw rookie on the JV. Still, I remember his leadership and encouragement. What a great privilege it was to join him on the Loyola College team 4 years later. Al was an outstanding mentor. He excelled academically just as he did in the pool. Focused and dedicated he nevertheless had a fun loving side which he frequently exhibited. He was a fun guy to hang and party with when the serious work was done. He was the Satchel Page of swimming, continuing to swim competitively well into his 70's in the Masters program. Leader, champion swimmer, dedicated citizen servant to our country, mentor, friend, family guy: that's how I will always remember Albert K.

Bob St. Ours - March 04, 2024 at 12:45 PM

MP

“ Albert was a teammate and friend for three years at Loyola College. He was a fantastic swimmer. His arrival on Loyola's swim team made me work harder which was a good thing. He was also a good friend.

He worked with me at the Johns Hopkins hospital swimming pool in the summer. The pool happened to be directly behind the building where the nurses were housed. Needless to say, it didn't take long for Albert to find someone who lived there, Mary Jo. It was love at first sight and went on from there. He was a great guy who found a love mate who became more than a summer love, and never looked back.

His untimely passing brings back those memories of Loyola swim team days and summers. He will be missed. May he rest in peace.

Marty Pilsch

Marty Pilsch - March 04, 2024 at 10:27 AM

JN

“ Al was generous with his knowledge and coached me through my first and only Ultramarathon back in the early 90s. I shared many lunchtime runs with him. The General will be missed but very fondly remembered.

James Narron - March 04, 2024 at 08:52 AM

TT

“ I just learned of Al's passing. My heartfelt condolences to the family and his many friends. He left a strong legacy at the Federal Reserve. Rest in Peace, Al.

Theresa Trimble - March 04, 2024 at 07:35 AM

DM

“ I looked up to Al as the most committed endurance athlete I would ever know. I knew of his unique success swimming across the bay, but I got to witness first-hand his strength of body and mind, when he asked me to support him in a Half-Iron Man event. I watch him run 20 miles, bike 50 miles and swim 144 laps in the pool. I was fortunate to have him as a distance runner mentor as part of the Federal Reserve Striders. He was also my Section Chief there and a Bowie carpool partner. Thank you, God, for giving us Al as an inspiration to be our best.

Dick Manasseri

Dick Manasseri - March 02, 2024 at 05:51 PM

FH

“ 1 file added to the album Al Kubeluis



FH - March 01, 2024 at 03:01 PM

DP

“ Al and i were good friends when I was in the US Air Force and we worked together at a government agency. Our bond was cemented through the birth of our first child who were born just Days a part. We played a lot of tennis together back in the mid 60's. He was always a great competitor and we had some very good matches. We remained friends for all these years. I will surely miss him.
Doug Payne

Doug Payne - March 01, 2024 at 11:55 AM

JB

“ Al was a celebrated member of the running group at the Federal Reserve Board known as “The Striders” where he went under the moniker of “General.” We shared numerous lunch time runs with the General and many of us suffered through some marathons with him. Al was a great guy, and those of us who knew him well will miss him dearly.

Jay Bryson - February 29, 2024 at 05:35 PM

BW

“ Brad W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Albert John Kubeluis Jr..

Brad W. - February 29, 2024 at 12:16 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Albert John Kubeluis Jr..



February 29, 2024 at 12:16 PM

KF

“ Swam with “Albert The Alligator” at Loyola in the early 1960s. He was one of the stalwarts on the team, always striving for the best for the team and himself. He certainly showed his strength and courage in this years-long fight against cancer. We all salute him for his courage. Anne and I send condolences to Mary Jo and the family.

Ken Freimuth - February 27, 2024 at 11:47 PM

MP

“ Al and I were teammates on the Loyola's swim team and friendly combatants in the pool. He was the stronger swimmer and usually came up as the winner but every once in a while he let me win one. We also teamed up as life guards at the Johns Hopkins Hospital outdoor swimming pool and had a lot of fun showing off for the nurses. We had a great time together and it was where he met Mary Jo. He was a great friend and will be missed. Marty Pilsch

Marty Pilsch - February 27, 2024 at 07:45 PM

BO

“ I have known Al since I was 14 years old. He was a senior at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and captain of the swimming team. I was a freshman on the junior varsity. We did it again at Loyola College with Al again as co-captain in his senior year and I a freshman . Al was a a true leader and a wonderful mentor to me. He combined excellence in his academic pursuits with a fierce competitive presence in the pool. May he rest in peace.

Bob St. Ours - February 27, 2024 at 05:57 PM

PA

“ We had a grand time in Spain, Al was at his finest!

Pat - February 27, 2024 at 08:03 AM

MS

Gad, It's been 60 years! Remembering Al with Tom Jeffers as our 1-2 power in the 400 freestyle at Loyola---Marty Schnuit

Martin SCHNUIT - March 03, 2024 at 08:18 PM