



Henry Rosenblum

January 23, 1942 - February 4, 2023

Henry Mark Rosenblum passed away on February 4, 2023 following a brief battle with lung cancer. Henry was born January 23, 1942 in Tyler, Texas to the late Sylvia and Marcelo Rosenblum.

Henry lived in Mexico with his parents and large extended family until the age of five. In the late 1940s, the Rosenblums moved to Houston, where Henry grew up near Rice Village. Henry graduated in 1959 from Bellaire High School and attended Tulane University, where he was a member of the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity. Henry then attended the University of Texas Law School. On his first day at UT, he met Phyllis Ravel, the love of his life and future wife. In 1964, they married and moved to Bethesda, Maryland where Henry worked as a civilian employee of the U.S. Navy.

Henry and Phyllis moved to Houston in 1971 where Henry opened his own law practice and was an active member of the Houston chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. As a civil rights attorney, he brought seminal cases in the 1970s that helped define the contours of United States civil rights laws. While he primarily represented people of color and women, his most notable case, McDonald versus Sante Fe Trail Transportation Company, was a reverse discrimination case resulting in a landmark 1976 Supreme Court

decision authored by the civil right trailblazer Justice Thurgood Marshall.

In 1981, Henry opened a travel agency with Phyllis, his sister Marilyn Eisenberg, and his mother Sylvia Rosenblum. With its memorable “Please go away!” tagline, Apple Travel became one of the largest Houston travel agencies in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Henry and Phyllis raised three children surrounded by laughter, love, warmth, and of course, great food. Elaborate dinners with family and friends were common and brought Henry and Phyllis much joy. Henry never met a stranger, always welcoming people into the home. Henry had an irreverent sense of humor and was a wonderful friend, maintaining meaningful long-time friendships in person and over the phone throughout his lifetime.

He and Phyllis were members of Temple Emanu El. They also were founding members of the Houston Original Gourmet Society (“HOGS”), a social organization that gathered for elaborate gourmet meals.

Henry was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Phyllis Ravel Roenblum. He is survived by his daughter Elyse Rosenblum and son-in law Matthew Pawa of Brewster, Massachusetts; his son Marc Rosenblum and daughter-in-law Katie Sellers of Washington D.C.; his daughter Yvonne Cosgrove and son-in-law John Cosgrove of Houston, Texas; and his sister Marilyn Eisenberg and brother-in-law Alvin Eisenberg of Houston. The major highlight of his final years were his six grandchildren: Zach Pawa, Hazel Rosenblum-Sellers, Phyllis Pawa, Iris Rosenblum-Sellers, Jacob Cosgrove and Phoebe Cosgrove. He treasured every chance to celebrate their milestones and

accomplishments.

The family would like to thank Dr. Rangacharri and Dr. Russell for their thoughtful care while he was treated at Beth Israel Deaconess in Boston, Capital Caring Hospice in Washington, DC, and his many friends who made trips and phone calls to cheer and comfort Henry these final months.

A memorial service and graveside service will be held Friday, February 10, 2023 at Emanu El Memorial Park at 11:00 a.m., 8341 Bissonnet St., Houston, TX 77074.

Donations in Henry's memory may be made to the Houston chapter of the ACLU or a charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall

LO

“Phyllis and Henry were very welcoming when we moved to Houston and became neighbors. She was also our wonderful travel agent, and his progressive legal work will always be admired. I still remember meeting Ralph Nader at a fundraiser in their backyard! May both of their lives continue to be a blessing to their children.

Linwood Olson - April 20, 2023 at 04:57 PM

GB

“I loved Henry! He was my boyfriend in the 5th grade at Roberts Elementary School in Houston! In the 5th grade we even exchanged ID bracelets that meant we were going "steady!" Unfortunately I hadn't seen much of Henry in our adult lives but I know he was a very sweet and caring guy. He world was a better place when Henry was here.
Gay Shlenker Block

Gay Shlenker Block - February 27, 2023 at 05:27 PM

DS

“ Henry was an integral part of the social group that ran around together in Houston during our junior high and high school days. He was the most playful, good humored one of us all. Although I left Houston to go off to college and never permanently returned, some of my family and old friends there periodically updated me on his doings.

The last time I saw Henry in person (some 10 years ago or so) was when I was living in Pennsylvania and he was passing through en route to NYC (I think it was) to see his daughter. We had lunch together in a pub in Bucks County and spent a couple of hours chatting about old times and then-current family and old friends. Henry was pretty much exactly as I remembered him from our high school days: full of laughter, fun, and joking around. I was surprised to hear that he had a liver transplant some years earlier....surprised because his joviality and interactional fullness of heart did not suggest the slightest concern about himself. In my experience, he was unique and a treasure to have had as a friend.

During the past year, we had a kind of media exchange monthly by zoom organized by my cousin Armand and several others of our old buddies. In spite of the age-related changes to all of our physiognomies and appearance, Henry's laughter and good humor identified him instantly as who he always was. He will not be forgotten....in fact, just the opposite.

Doug Shapiro

Douglas Shapiro - February 09, 2023 at 11:46 AM

GM

“ Henry, Phyllis and Apple Travel were favorite clients of mine early in my legal career. My friend, Arnold, was his accountant and together we worked with the family and the business for years. When I think about Henry, I remember he was a liberal thinker and he taught his children to be liberal thinkers. Henry realized a great deal about the world was unfair, and he taught us all to try a little harder to make this a better place. I have not seen Henry in years, but I miss the memories.

Gary Miller - February 08, 2023 at 07:54 PM

BS

“ I met the Rosenblum Family through Apple Travel while I worked in airline sales. Henry and The Rosenblum family were and still are so welcoming to Barry and I as part of the family. Many memories with Henry, his smile, kindness, cooking, and most of all family, he will be missed. Our loss is Heavens gain.

Brenda and Barry Sherman - February 08, 2023 at 02:46 PM

VW

“ I will miss Henry forever. His kindness throughout our 30 year relationship is unmatched and never forgotten. His love for Phyllis was inspirationally amazing. Victor Woo and the Woo Family

Victor Woo - February 07, 2023 at 05:33 PM