

In loving tribute to Bobby Ericsson, devoted wife of our founder, Sam Ericsson, who passed away peacefully on Monday, November 11, 2024.



It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of our beloved Bobby. Over the past several years, she fought a brave battle with debilitating Parkinson's and osteoporosis. Bobby fell in her apartment on Election Day and fractured her hip. Given her poor health, she was unfortunately not a candidate for surgery.

Her health deteriorated rapidly after that, with her only being responsive at times. Sam and Bobby's daughter Monica and their Russian "son", Nick, live nearby and could give her the daily support she needed. Their son Ryan travelled to be with Bobby in the past week and sat and played his guitar for her. In a clear moment, Bobby said to Ryan that she was ready to go and was looking forward to seeing Sam again.

Since Bobby's passing, condolences have streamed in from across the globe. All of these speak of her quiet strength, grace, and unwavering support which helped transform Sam's vision into a global movement. Bobby's steadfast partnership, shared dreams, and boundless resilience allowed Sam to reach countless lives across borders and communities, sparking change and raising up Christian lawyers globally to "Do Justice with Compassion"

Over the past few days, many international advocates have fondly recalled being hosted in Sam and Bobby's home with endless love and hospitality. Given their firm belief of "*Always steward, never owner*" they shared everything they had – their home, their cars, their time, their money, and their food. Bobby's income from her Melaleuca business and mortgages raised over their properties, funded many Advocates' events, travel, etc. Her unwavering support and encouragement for us continued right to the

end. Even in this time of loss, Bobby's dedication to the mission of Advocates International and her commitment to the values she and Sam held dear continue to uplift us all and remind us to live with a purpose.

A couple of weeks ago, I had the wonderful privilege to record a video interview with Bobby which was played at our Fundraising Banquet. Beforehand I suggested to her that if she didn't feel up to doing the recording, she could write a message which I could read at the Banquet. With her customary keenness, she said she wanted to do the recording and even let me know afterward that she wanted to add something she had forgotten about! As I watched the recording, I marvelled that, despite her poor health and discomfort, she had the usual twinkle in her eye and was as enthusiastic and encouraging as ever before!

You can watch the video at:

https://player.vimeo.com/progressive_redirect/playback/1023101059/rendition/1080p/file.mp4?loc=external&log_user=0&signature=9550980297ba654bcef58f736d1d85f034b027640dfc90ae383af778cc6dee76

Our hearts go out to Monica, Ryan, Nick, and their families as well as Bobby's close friends – may you tangibly experience our Father's presence, comfort, and peace in this time of grieving. On behalf of all of us at Advocates International, we thank you for taking such good care of Bobby – we appreciate every one of you!

With heartfelt gratitude, we thank Bobby for her tireless dedication, and pledge to carry forward the legacy she helped build with unwavering resolve.

Warmly in Christ



Teresa Conradie - President and CEO, Advocates International

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