IN MEMORIAM: Graham Dene Burrows, 1938–2016

Graham Burrows was my friend and colleague during our successive presidencies of the International Society of Hypnosis (ISH). Seldom have I met such a superb strategist whose primary aim was for our society, which he led in multiple roles during critical times. In 1986, when the ISH Central Office needed a new home, Graham stepped in and provided space and staff at the Austin Hospital for more than a decade. In addition, he brought the entire Australian Society of Hypnosis into ISH membership.

I have seldom met a more loyal person than Graham. In so many ways, he was a resource for me as I met the inevitable challenges of leadership. Graham was not always free from controversy. He accepted that a true conservative knew when to act decisively. The decisions for which I sought his advice resulted in win/win solutions for all involved. This was his special strength.

We met Graham and his wife, Barbara, when they came to Philadelphia for the 1976 ISH Congress. Our kids remember his flash of red hair and the gifts of toy koala bears, which opened their eyes to their first international friendships. Over the years, we visited their home in suburban Melbourne, their farm, and Barbara’s equestrian center. As a retired anesthesiologist, she has brought to this endeavor the same devotions and skill she brought to her medical practice.

At Graham’s retirement celebration from the University of Melbourne’s Department of Psychiatry in 2008, Marcia and I shared time with his national and international colleagues. As the family has written in his obituary, his range of influence and leadership extended to every aspect of psychiatry, including his research, clinical care, and teaching. His highest honor was the Officer of the Order of Australia.

Linda Davey and Graham’s colleague Robb Stanley, an officer of ISH, prove the point that every accomplished man or woman has a professional infrastructure of excellence. His wife and children gave him balance and inspiration. When I asked Graham which was more important, his work or his family, he looked me right in the eye and said firmly, “Family!” As the most poignant example of this, he relayed to me that before he started his day in the hospital at 7 AM and after his earlier walk with his dog, he served Barbara breakfast in bed—treasured moments for each to begin the day.
I am grateful to have known Graham. I shall miss him.

Peter B. Bloom, MD
Past President, International Society of Hypnosis;
Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry,
Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, USA