

Captain Robert Webster Memorial Scholarship

Established in 2019 by Bonnie K. Webster and friends



Captain Robert Webster

Captain Robert Webster embodied all the qualities that make an Aggie, and truly was one of a kind.

Robert grew up in Texas in the Dallas and Houston area. He enjoyed visiting Galveston during the summer and spending time on the beaches and by the water. He spent the first 20 years of his career far from the beach, as the Director of Parks for the City of Plano, TX, but returned to Galveston and his beloved beaches as soon as he could. Robert was a non-traditional student, starting his educational journey at Galveston College, before moving to TAMUG to complete a bachelor's degree in Ocean and Coastal Resources, and then a Master's of Marine Resource Management in addition to his captain's license. Robert was working on his dissertation for his PhD at the time of his death.

Robert was a driving force behind the creation of the Sargassum Early Advisory System (SAES) where he created a highly accurate, but manually intensive, process to spot Sargassum in the ocean and alert stakeholders of the date and location of potential landings. His work inspired industry, local policy and response, and a cadre of students that continue his research areas to this day. This allowed city and county departments to prepare for the management of the Sargassum influx on the beaches. During his decade long battle with colon cancer, Robert was recognized with the Texas A&M Faculty Senate Aggie Spirit Award in recognition for outstanding courage and determination in the face of adversity while attending Texas A&M University. While battling cancer, he formed a cancer survivor support group, continued in his passion of gardening and raising fruit trees, went boating and deep-sea fishing whenever he could and attended the numerous sporting events daughter Haley participated in while continuing his work at Texas A&M.

Through it all, Robert remained thoughtful, optimistic, cheerful, and relentless in carrying on a full and active life.

The loss of Captain Robert Webster is the definition of "gone too soon". Robert's widow, Bonnie K. Webster, and his daughter Haley K. Lord (Webster) along with family and friends established the Captain Robert Webster Memorial Scholarship to benefit students at Texas A&M University at Galveston studying Ocean and Coastal

Resources or Marine Resources Management It's their hope that this scholarship will help provide vital support to students in their pursuit of knowledge, and continue Robert's legacy of the passionate pursuit of knowledge and his love for beaches and the ocean.