

George Bradley Fitch

February 7, 1948 - December 30, 2014
Resided in Warrenton, VA

Obituary

George Bradley Fitch, recently retired mayor of Warrenton, died December 30, 2014, of complications associated with cancer. George Fitch was born on February 7, 1948 in Canton, China to a family that had served as Presbyterian missionaries in China for three generations. George was born six weeks early during the Communist Chinese attack on the outskirts of Canton. Soon after George's birth, the family fled to Hong Kong. From there, George's father moved the family to India to begin a new career.

Most of George's childhood was spent in Asia. After living a number of years in India, the family moved to Singapore. George grew up in a family that encouraged exploration of the world and respect for all people of all cultures. As a child, George acquired facility in several Chinese and Asian dialects as well as French, Italian, Spanish, and German. George attended the University of Singapore for two years. During that time, his extraordinary athletic skills in swimming and tennis were noticed, and he was asked by the government of Singapore to represent that country in the Olympics. To accept that honor would have required George to relinquish his U.S. citizenship, and that was something he would not do. Soon after, George returned to the United States to complete his bachelor's degree in economics at the College of Wooster in Ohio, where several generations of his family had studied.

After graduation from Wooster, he was accepted as a graduate teaching assistant in international economics at The George Washington University. One of the students in his introductory economics class was Miss Patricia Blazy, who later became his wife. George and Patricia went on to serve in the U.S. Foreign Service for about 12 years. George was Commercial Attaché and Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Belize. In George's next assignment, President Reagan asked him to lead the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), a program to assist in economic development for Caribbean and Central American countries. During his work on the CBI, George observed that the track and field skills of Jamaican athletes in the Summer Olympics were similar to those necessary for bobsledding. He pointed this out to his friends, who laughed at his idea, which then challenged him to try to create a bobsled team

from Jamaica. Against all odds, he successfully developed the Jamaican bobsled team that competed in the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, which inspired the Disney movie Cool Runnings.

In the 1980s George left government service and he and Patricia moved to Fauquier County, where Patricia's family had lived for generations. In Fauquier, George turned his attention to politics. George ran for mayor of Warrenton in 1998 and served for 16 years before retiring in June 2014. He was proud of his work in creating and developing Warrenton's aquatic and recreation center, which serves all age groups in the community. But George the economist was particularly proud that during his 16-year tenure as Mayor of Warrenton., the town grew and provided many new services to the citizens, but the real estate tax rate never increased.

In all of their professional endeavors, George and Patricia served as a team. Their latest project has been to restore Paradise, built in 1758, the oldest house in Warrenton. George credited Patricia's insights and acumen in guiding his judgments throughout their marriage.

George was a member of the Cosmos Club.

George is survived by Patricia Blazy Fitch, his wife of 40 years; his sister Giselle Fitch; his brother Albert Fitch, and many nieces, nephews, and godchildren.

There will be a memorial service on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at 11 AM at St. James Episcopal Church with Rev. Ben Maas officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the, Special Olympics Virginia (area 27), 3212 Skipwith Road Suite 100 Richmond, VA 23294-4413, Fisher House, 111 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20850, American Cancer Society, P. O. Box 1095, Warrenton, VA 20188, Fauquier SPCA, P.O. Box 733, Warrenton, VA 20188 or any no-kill animal shelter.

Guestbook



pcharris

Created: January 07, 2015

To Pat, the Fitch family and friends from all of your Jamaican Friends. At this time so much can be said and yet what does one say about a really great guy we have had the pleasure of knowing since 1986. All of us who had the opportunity to be part of the 1988 Jamaica Bobsled team olympic entry still hold fond memories of that and more importantly of our friend George. We will deeply miss him and his infectious laugh. In the coming days I will endeavour to honour him on our "good friends we've lost" section of our [website.www.ontetime.com](http://www.ontetime.com). We shall not forget him and stand ready to help you and the family at any time. May the Lord who holds him keep you in comfort and peace at this time. Sincerely PC & Wendy Harris Toronto - Ps found this picture I took at your lovely home back in the day

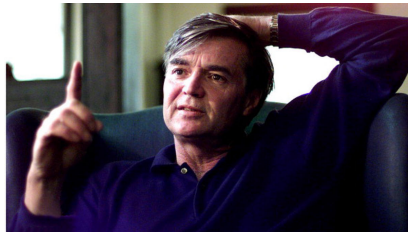
Created: January 06, 2015



Wm. Shore Robertson

Dear Mrs Fitch,
My wife, Barbara and I were greatly saddened to learn of Mayor Fitch's passing. He most certainly lived a wonderful life of service. His service to Warrenton as Mayor most certainly enriched this community and will be felt for many years to come. You and all your family are very much in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.
Sincerely yours,
Shore Robertson

Photos



Services

Funeral Home

Moser Funeral Home

233 Broadview Ave
Warrenton , VA US 20186

 [Map / Directions](#)

Service

St. James Episcopal Church

73 Culpeper Street
Warrenton, VA US 20186

 [Map / Directions](#)

 Saturday, January 10, 2015
11:00 AM

 [Create Facebook Event](#)