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## In Memory of Michael Robert Gordon

July 5, 1947 - August 29, 2012

Obituary

Michael Robert Gordon was born on July 5, 1947 in Washington, DC to the late Frank and Frances Fox Gordon of Silver Spring, MD. A life-long resident of Montgomery County, he attended public schools and graduated from Northwood High School in 1965. He earned a B.A. from Towson University in 1969 and a J.D. from Georgetown University in 1972. During college he was a member of ROTC and later commissioned as a Captain in the US Army Reserves from 1971-1980. He started his legal career in DC in 1972 then joined a law firm in Rockville which eventually became Ehrlich and Gordon. He practiced plaintiff's law there until 2003 then in his home until 2006.

Politics was always Michael's passion. Beginning in his teenage years he was a volunteer in many campaigns. That combined with being active in several Rockville organizations led to his running for the Maryland House of Delegates in 1982 to represent District 17 which includes the municipalities of Gaithersburg, Garrett Park and Rockville. He was elected to that office six times and served twenty-four years until his retirement in 2006. He was a member of the Constitutional and Administrative Law Committee 1983-1989; Ways and Means Committee 1989-1994; Vice Chair of the Economic Matters Committee 1995-2003 then returned to the Ways and Means Committee from 2003-2006. He served on numerous subcommittees as well as special and standing committees such as the Spending Affordability Committee; Rules and Executive Nominations Committee; Joint Committee on Administrative, Legislative and Executive Review; Financing Resources; Task Force on Telecommunications Taxes; Joint Committee on State Economic Development Initiatives and the Special Committee on Gaming to name a few. He was Chair of the Montgomery County Delegation 1986-1991 and Chair of the Fiscal Affairs and Governmental Operations Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference in 1997.

In addition to his work in Annapolis, he served on many Montgomery County and municipal committees among them County Fiscal Affairs Committee; Rockville Alternative Community Service Committee and the County Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission. He was an enthusiastic member and supporter of many community organizations such as Peerless Rockville Historical Society; Manna Food Bank; Rockville Little Theater; Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee; Montgomery County Bar Association and the Rockville Civic Federation.

He received many awards such as those from the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program; National Council of Jewish Women; Maryland State Bar Association and the Maryland Municipal League. As he was always a strong supporter of municipal legislative needs, the League awarded him their Distinguished Service Award ten times.

Michael loved to travel and saw a lot of this country and the world. His favorite destination was Aruba where he spent two weeks each year at Thanksgiving time. The other favorite place was his beach house in Ocean City, Maryland where he could unwind and spend time with the family and his four grandsons.

It is tragic that in the middle of this vibrant and productive life Young Onset Parkinson's disease attacked. Michael was diagnosed in 1994 at the age of 47 but had been symptomatic for several years before that date. Thanks to excellent medical care and his determination not to succumb easily to what we called the dragon, he was able to maintain pretty much of a normal life until 2006 when dementia appeared. Despite the growing cognitive impairment and the physical decline, he found comfort in simple pleasures like favorite foods, television, small shopping trips, short walks, the company of family and his cat Toby. He put up a heroic fight for over nineteen years but the dragon finally won.

Michael will be held in the hearts of his wife of twenty-five years, Carol

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Blum Gordon; two stepdaughters, Virginia (Polly) Blum Wiedmaier (Robert) and Pamela Blum Patmore of Kensington, Maryland; four grandsons, Nicolas and Cage Patmore and Marcel and Beck Wiedmaier; three brothers, Donald (Judith) of San Antonio, Texas, Edward (Sally) of Columbia, Maryland and Carl (Doris) of Florida; two nephews; two grandnieces and many cousins. We wish him godspeed and shalom.

The family will be sitting shiva on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 4 and 5, from 6 to 9 p.m. at 4313 Saul Road, Kensington, MD.

It would be appreciated if donations in Michael's memory could be made to the National Parkinson Foundation either by mail to 1501 N.W. 9th Avenue, Miami, FL 33136-1494 or by visiting their website at <http://www.parkinson.org/>. Click on Donate Now in the top bar, then on Honor & Memorial Gifts on the next page then on FIND AN HONOR OR MEMORIAL PAGE

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