

## OBITUARY

# ROBERT CURTIS WILLIAMS

21 December 1943 – 23 June 2016

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**This summer, our IAAS community was suddenly faced with the sad news that Bob Williams, our former Secretary, had passed away on June 23, 2016.** This sad news came to our association entirely unexpectedly and we learned that Bob had died of lung cancer.

For those in our IAAS family who knew him this message had a big impact as many of us have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Bob as he was active from 2002 in our association. As an official on our General Assembly he represented the Federated Ambulatory Surgery Association in the IAAS. After he had prepared the excellent IAAS / FASA Congress in 2003 in Boston, he was elected as a member of the Executive Committee. The IAAS proved to be very privileged having had the opportunity to enrol such an eminent scholar of Ambulatory Surgery into its ranks. One of the unique characteristics of Bob was the fact that he has worked as the Executive Director with Wallace Reed and John Ford in their archetypal Freestanding Ambulatory Surgery Center in Phoenix, Arizona, the first of its kind and an example for many of us. Together with his other nationwide activities in

the field of ASCs and accreditation organizations in the USA this made him a beacon of knowledge for the IAAS. He was also soon Secretary of our organization serving alongside and supporting the Presidents de Jong, Bacaglino, Toftgaard and Lemos. During eight years he enriched us with his presence and knowledge. He always achieved this in an extremely amiable and unassuming manner. He was the one who could steer the discussion in the right direction at the right times with his impressive background. He was also very punctual and organised as Secretary and to the point when needed. In 2012 he left IAAS after the Porto meeting. He has transferred the Secretariat very conscientiously and carefully to me as his successor.

Bob was a fine and human guy who was inseparable from his lovely wife Paula who faithfully accompanied him on the many foreign trips he made. We are greatly indebted to him and miss him very much, but our thoughts are especially with Paula and their children - for them it is huge loss. We wish her and the family all strength.

JAN ESHUIS

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