

*Ella
Duncan*

*Happy 101st
Birthday*

December 2, 2023



101st

**Happy
Birthday**

IT'S PRONOUNCED: ASH-OAK!!

He came to us from far away,
But got here as quick as he could!
He was pleasant and very popular
Cause at bridge he really was good!

He was quiet, kind of shy,
He didn't have much to say
But that all seemed to turn around
When he sat down to play!

He was always a fierce opponent
And I don't have to tell y'all
Nothing was more irritating
Than when he did a second round overcall!

I thought I had a defense for this
Because I really couldn't take it
So I started to double him
But stopped—cause he'd always make it!

I remember once in a tournament
I committed the cardinal sin
And didn't return his opening lead
Then heard: "Do it and ve vould vin!"

Ashok's cards were really special,
It was amazing to every player
And it really defied the odds
Because he never had a four-card major.

And just a caution to everyone:
Though he won't swat you on the rump
You better be damn sure you never
Ever make a bid of "one no trump."

Ashok used to play with my husband;
And together they did very well;

Which incidentally saved my marriage,
And it sure saved my husband from hell.

My husband was a big teaser,
And one day it did come to pass,
After they both finished their game
Terry bragged: I finally made Ashok laugh!

One time Terry told the opponents
After a bad bid in which he got caught
Ashok says my brain's fuzzy with chemo
Ashok yelled out: No I did not!

One thing that always bugged me
Was when people called him Ashook
I'd give them a little lesson about trees:
The Ash and the mighty Oak!

If someone mispronounced his name,
I always had something to say!
And I'd deliver my little tree speech
And he'd say, Lorraine!! It's okay!!!

Every time we had a party
We could count on his wife to cook
If he had a special talent with cards,
She had the same thing with food!

We're going to really miss him,
And just when he learned to tell jokes!
But we'll be playing with him at regionals—
But remember what I said about No Trump!!

Best of luck with love!
Your El Paso Bridge Club

Dr. Lorraine O'Donnell, June 2024



Congratulations
BOB CRAIG

**Just went over
10,000 MasterPoints
at the Taos Regional**

Bob Craig, Platinum Life Master

**When I first started playing duplicate here, I had the good fortune to be Bob's partner on several occasions. As a new player, I made every 'new player mistake' at least once, and sometimes more than once. He never criticized at the table (although I do remember him wincing once or twice). After a hand was over, he might mention another way of bidding or playing. Because of his gentle mentoring, I was anxious to continue playing and learn more and more. Thank you, Bob.

I wasn't there at the time but heard this from someone who was. Maybe 10 years or so ago, one of our newer players was playing with Bob for the first time and admitted how nervous she was to be playing with him. Bob, to be helpful, thought he'd relieve her nervousness with the same advice given to many a first-time public speaker. "Well," he said. "When you're afraid of doing something in front of an audience, just try to envision them without any clothes on." A very witty player at the next table upon overhearing this conversation piped up with, "Bob, would you stand up, please?" I'm told the shade of red he turned has never been matched before or since!!!

**Bob is always doing things under the radar for others and for the club.

Bob takes an interest in people and remembers things about them.

Bob is always ready to help others learn new skills at bridge.

"Bob is quite possibly one of the best players at the club"—a quote overheard a couple of years ago. Kind Generous with his time Teacher Family man Good friend

**Bob is the backbone of our Unit and we owe him a great deal of gratitude. Without the generous gift of his time and energy as a director, our Unit would close its doors.

**I am soooo happy that Bob Craig has achieved his much-desired status of Platinum Life Master....10,000 masterpoints!

He mentored Peggy, who achieved the rank before him, because for a very long time, he was assisting the League as a National, Regional, Sectional and local director.....working very hard and foregoing playing.

Also, he is a most excellent mentor. I can, Barbara Crews can, Kubala can, Peggy can and Gerald Georges can attest to that (the latter partnership mentoring probably goes both ways). Bob most likely could have obtained Platinum status years earlier had he not given so much of his time for the benefit of others.

Congrats Mr. Craig. So very proud and delighted for you....so well deserved. I'm not jealous at all!

Bob has persevered in two lifetime careers, one in the business realm and the other in contract bridge, rising to the rank of national director. Throughout his career, his quiet and reassuring demeanor has provided co-workers and bridge players an atmosphere of reassurance and inspiration. **He is the consummate bridge partner!

**1st and foremost his bridge expertise and his ability, and when he thinks it will be well-received, he gives kind words of encouragement and maybe the better play to make.

His patience whenever there is a director call – at the same table for the 3rd time for the 3rd lead out of turn.

He steps up and tries to make us a better club and volunteers his time.

He seems to know when I need a hug.

Finally, he knows what a burnt-out light bulb means!

**Bob is a true gentleman

**My first real encounter with Bob personally was when I playfully called him "Dad," and he replied, "Daughter." It was an immediate example of his sense of humor. Over the years, I have observed him to be a perfect gentleman. He is amicable, seldom flustered, easy-going, and, most importantly, he gives suggestions for better bridge play without making you feel like an "idiot".

**Bob is an awesome director, teacher, mentor and friend!

**I asked him to officiate when Terry passed away, and it meant a lot to Terry and to me.

Bob always seems to be at a loss for words. Oh no! Wait, that's someone else!

**It was Dino's fault that it took you this long to get to 10,000! (Dino was a boss we both had)

If you play with him, remind him that it is 1430!!! I know, I know, it should be partners' agreement.

**The first word that comes to my mind when I think of Bob is he's a "giver". It's obvious that he has a clear direction to put others before himself. He gives his time energy and is willing to sacrifice his own personal goals to contribute to the well-being of others or the group. Very much a class act!

I'm very proud that Bob represents our Club. How many clubs have a Platinum Life Master and respected ACBL Tournament Director running their games? It's our honor to have him at our club. He represents us incredibly well, sets an example for all of us, and makes us all proud.

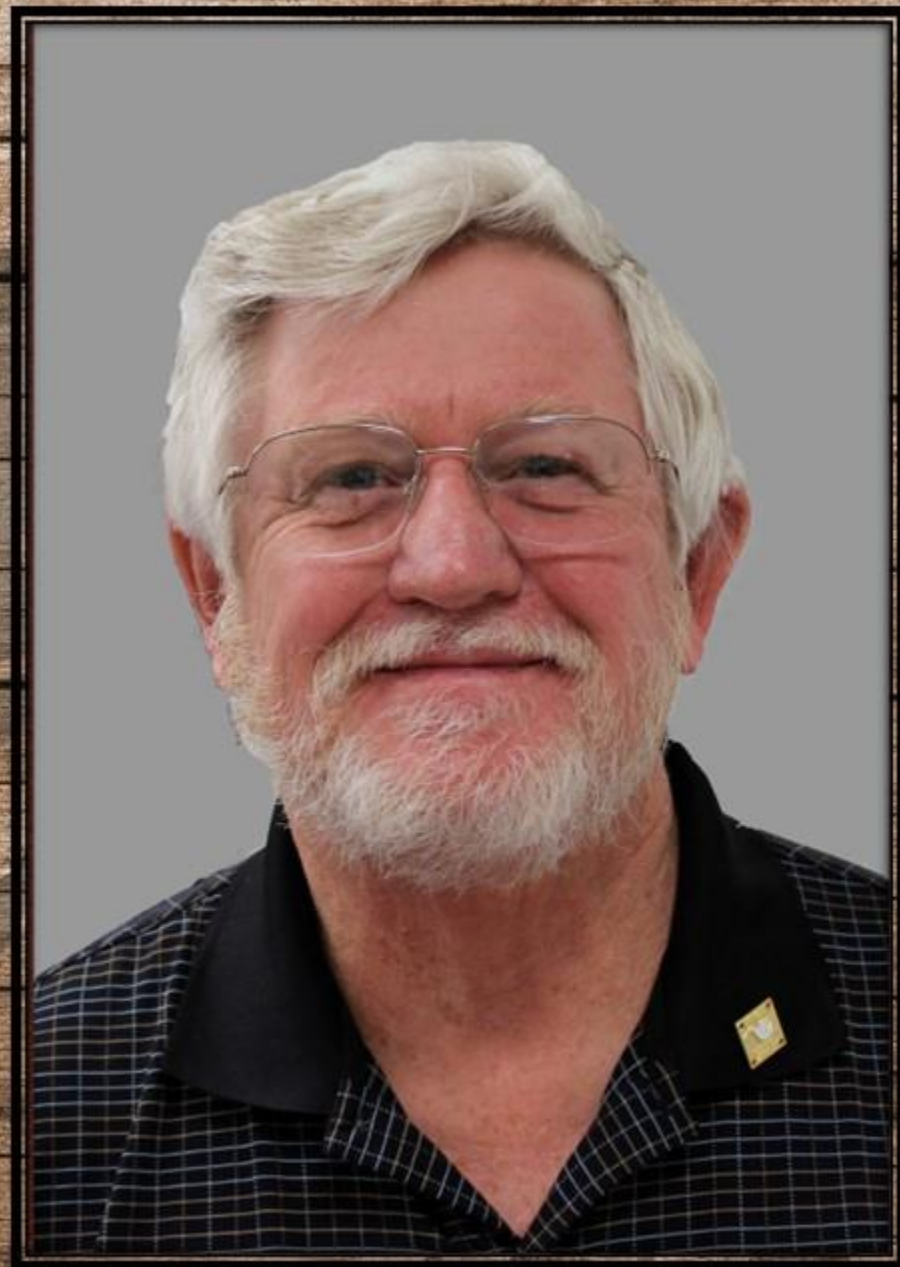
He has a great sense of humor and is fun to be around. I'll never forget the story of Peggy and the Chief of Police!

I would like to thank Bob for his friendship and let him know how much I've appreciated all the help and support that he's given me. I know some of our road trips have been a little rough, but he gets his helmet, hangs on tight, and keeps showing up when I drive by and honk! Patient, generous, and giving---that's Bob!

**I don't recall ever playing with Bob as a partner in a pairs game, though I've been fortunate to have been on a couple of teams that included him. But playing AGAINST Bob in hundreds of pair games over the years has improved the level of my play. One cannot help but learn from his expert play and thoughtful analysis. "TIME OUT, TIME OUT!" Need I also mention his very fair and well-explained rulings as a director?

Steve Nordberg has represented El Paso and Southern New Mexico for 10 years. He has contributed to many D17 initiatives, including the grant program. Steve can be seen at most D17 regionals where he dedicates his time volunteering to play with newer players who need partners, often increasing their masterpoint totals.

The D17 Board, Units 159, 376, 380 and 388 would like to thank Steve for his service to D17 and for his dedication to bridge.



Dixie Wicker



**First Place
in Texas**

**Master Gardener
Association**

**Outstanding
Individual**



Ella had a fabulous time at her birthday party. She was so excited, and she was a star on Channels 7 & 9 news that evening.

See those clips above. Could not copy them into this PowerPoint file.

She was also interviewed by Channel 9 News, but the reporter did not speak loud enough for Ella to hear so they were unable to get any usable footage of the interview for the broadcast.

Click [here](#) to view the slideshow of her 100th birthday celebration!