

Philip Randal Trosko, only son of James Edward and Beverly Kay (Dowell) Trosko, was born 13 April 1966, Oak Ridge, Rhone County, Tennessee. He graduated in 1984 from Okemos High School and furthered



his education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a B.S. degree and at Michigan State University with a Masters in Computer Science.

Philip's life journey has been best described by his devoted father, James E. Trosko, Ph.D. Dr. Trosko wrote the following:

Philip Randal Trosko's Tour of Life

"Each one of us, after conception, starts on his/her's life's journey. No matter how short or long, that journey is absolutely unique. When one looks at the billions of humans that have made that journey, it is amazing that no two will have had the same experience. What is even more astonishing, all those life journeys are never completely known by anyone, not even those who have made that journey. Can anyone remember all those experiences we had before we became conscious of ourselves? Even after consciousness, none of us can recall all those life events that made us who we are. Obviously,

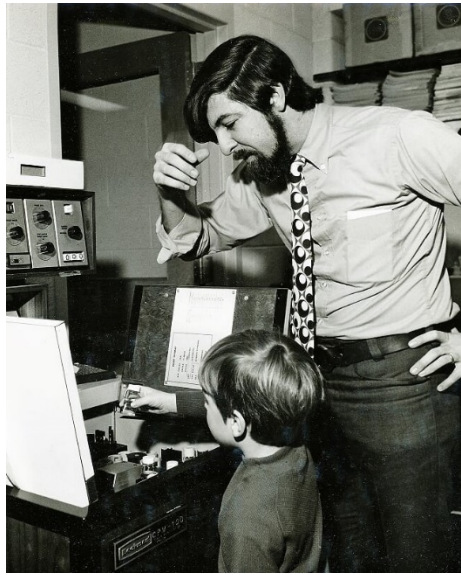


even those whose lives were identified early and had elements recorded, that record never captures all that did help shape who we are.

On this day of Philip's birthday, April 13, 1966, I

remember before he died (March 13, 2018), he felt he needed to tell the world that his life's journey was unique (not better than anyone else's, but, put into the context of world history, one that he felt was very interesting). As his father, I would have to agree. And that is why I must tell his story. After all of our deaths, especially within 2 generations, there will be no one to remember each of our meaningful journeys.

Part of my life, that I remember, was influence the day the Japanese surrendered during the second World War. While all kinds of ordinary influences affected my early up-bringing, it was a choice I made to enter Central Michigan University in 1956. The very next year, Sputnik flew over



my dormitory. I became a "sputnik baby" and decided on my long-term career to be a scientist. Part of what will become an unknowing start of Philip's life journey occurred when I was given an apprenticeship to spend two summers at Argonne National Laboratory at Argonne, Illinois. After getting my Ph.D., I was given a fellowship grant to go to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Please note these two scientific labs were involved in the making of the atomic bombs. It was in Oak Ridge,

Tennessee that Philip Randal Trosko was born.

After returning to East Lansing, Michigan where Philip grew up and having graduated from Okemos High school, he decided to go to the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1984). Among all his great teachers, he was influenced by Dr.



Seymour Abrahamson, the geneticist who contributed to the understanding of the radiation effects of the atomic bombs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Therein starts the next segment of his absolutely unique experience. While he was at the University of Wisconsin, he had a summer internship at Argonne National lab. Later, the next two summers he was given internships at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Again, note that he now had been to Oak Ridge, Tennessee (and later to visit Oak Ridge National Lab), Argonne National Lab, and now Los Alamos National Lab, where the atomic bombs were developed.

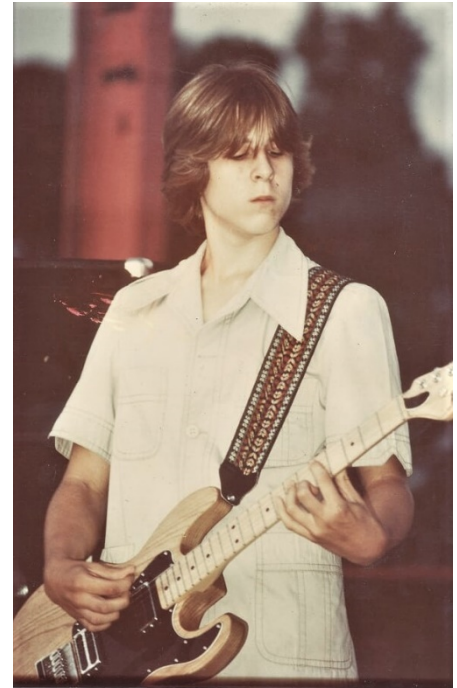
After graduating, he started his graduate work in computer science, wishing to continue his pioneering computer programming of the Human Genome project. While there, I became the Chief of Research at the Radiation Effect Research Foundation at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. He decided to visit me and Kay. During his stay at the institute, he was able to take part in the anniversary of the Atom Bomb event in both cities (Aug. 6 & 9th) and meet with several atomic bomb survivors and to visit the Peace Museums in both cities. On his way back home, he stopped in Honolulu War Memorial, where the 2nd WW started between the Japanese and Americans.

Finally, to put this extremely relevant series of experiences in perspective, he really wanted the world to know that he traced his footsteps from those places where the atomic bombs were developed, to those National Laboratories that shaped his intellectual abilities and his human concerns for those victims of not only those two atomic bombs, but to all those that suffered the consequences of all wars and oppression. Those that knew Philip knew he volunteered to help children. His favorite charities were those to feed children.

So as all of us have left our footprints of life in this vast universe, in short time after our deaths, no matter how insignificant or significant that our journey has been, few will ever remember that unique tour of life. For Philip's wish that someone would at least know of the paths he took, in the context of the atomic bomb story, I leave this for you to know. I know

Philip would not have wanted to brag about this journey, but he was so proud that he was able to experience it."

Philip, who loved poetry was, also, musically talented. He played 6 guitars while in high school, participated in the Okemos jazz band and even had his own band, The Fish Heads. But it was Philip's love of friends and the touching of so many lives that set him apart from the ordinary. One friend said of Philip that "he had never in his life met a person like Phil, who had so many talents..... whenever he felt stressed, Phil would take him to the shore of Lake Mendota, play his guitar, talk about poetry, discuss history of some computer program, etc. and provided him with practice advice to whatever bothered him at the moment."



The last few years of Philip's life were dimmed by the diagnosis of Bipolar



Disease.

Unfortunately, at age 51, he succumbed to cardiac arrest due to medications. Philip died 13 March 2018 but his legacy of caring, kindness and concern for others lives on.

Philip R. Trosko

Okemos - age 51, passed away on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at home. He was born in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; grew up in East Lansing; Madison, Wisconsin, and Okemos. He attended Okemos High School, University of Wisconsin-Madison (with a B.S., in Computer Science [1988]) and Michigan State University (Masters of Science in Computer Science [1992]). During this period, he spent one summer at Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago and two summers at Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico working on the Human Genome Project. After he was diagnosed with Bipolar Disease, he had several short career experiences. He is survived by his parents, Beverly Kay and James Edward Trosko, Aunt Barbara (Richard) Walker and Uncle Gerald (Anita) Dowell of Battle Creek, Michigan. He is also survived by cousins- Jeffery (Carolyn) Walker; Stephen (Christine) Walker; Melinda (Martin) Berg; Karen(Mathew) Domsic; David (Jill) Dowell; Connie (Peyton) Owston; Beverly (William) Weideman; and Larry (Kathy) Trosko. Phil had many local, national and international friends. He was characterized as a "social magnet" and had great compassion for suffering children and for all kinds of wild critters. A memorial service will be held in the future at Gorsline-Runciman Funeral Homes, East Lansing chapel (www.greastlansing.com) providing information as to the date and specific place. In lieu of flowers, for those who wish to make a donation, Philip would have preferred the Greater Lansing Food Bank to help hungry children or the Red Cross.

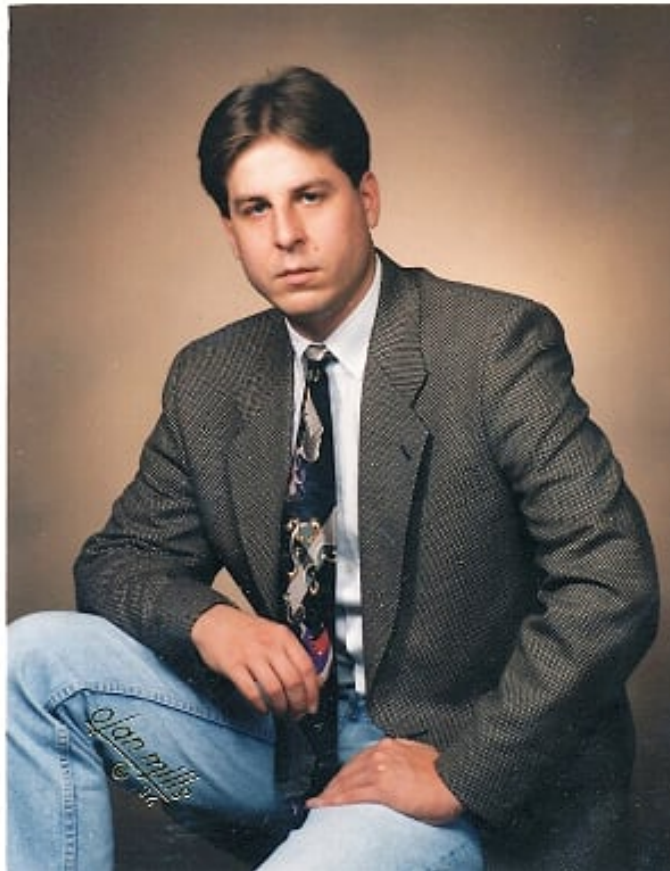
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"If ever there is tomorrow when we're not together... there is something you must always remember. You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think. But the most important thing is, even if we're apart... I'll always be with you."

– **Winnie the Pooh**



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