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## From the Picklehood

July 2025

By Jack Hodges

### Thank you Ted. You were fantastic

Ted C Steinberg, former north shore Kaua'i pickleball ambassador, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on April 16, 2025. He was 84. He is survived by his wife Betty, daughters Dr. Kimberly (Ranaella) Steinberg of Kauai, HI and Kelly Steinberg-Johnston of Austin, TX and granddaughter Trinity Johnston. Ted Completed his BS in Electrical Engineering and his MS in Engineering Administration from SMU. He worked mainly with semiconductor companies (TI, RCA, Motorola, Fairchild Test Systems, AOT, Megatest and Teradyne); His work gave him the opportunity to travel all over the world.

I met Ted in April of 2015. We had conducted our first introductory Clinic on Kaua'i at the Kalaheo Neighborhood Center and Ted asked if Stephanie and I would do the same for residents on the north shore. Two weeks later, at Emmalani Park in Princeville, pickleball was introduced to approximately 30 curious attendees. Soon, Ted and friends formed the North Shore Pickleball Ohana (NSPO) and it was then that I asked Ted if he would be willing to serve as our United States Pickleball Association Ambassador for the north shore area of Kaua'i. Ted served in that position for five years, stepping down in 2021. Those who were part of the north shore picklehood and those of us who drove occasionally to play at Emmalani Park or the Kilauea Neighborhood Center were always treated to an organized regimen of fun play with Ted and the NSPO. The good memories I have of those early days' excursions to the north shore are accentuated by memories of an enthusiastic and positive ambassador who thoroughly enjoyed what he was doing. Yes, there were growing pains and the many many emails I have from Ted asking for advice

attest to those formative days, but the one thing equally remembered is that Ted never complained and did his best to get things done to benefit his pickleball 'Ohana.

On Sunday, July 6, Stephanie and I joined approximately 75 others at Pinetrees (Wai'oli) Beach Park in Hanalei for Ted's Celebration of Life. It was a wonderful afternoon gathering to honor a friend and man who literally "changed people's lives." It was nice to visit with Ted's wife Betty and meet immediate family members mentioned above. Those who spoke and others we visited with during the gathering focused, as expected, on Ted's accomplishments and contributions to the North Shore pickleball community. Our conversations reminded me of something I learned a long time ago about pickleball ambassadors.....their support system includes a "silent" ambassador who shares in the success of any picklehood. This partner listens to ideas, proposals and problems. She/he serves as a sounding board and genuinely cares. Their feedback is valuable. So Betty, this is a shout out to you and the job you did, behind the scenes, to make Ted's job easier. A well deserved mahalo nui to you. Stephanie and I enjoyed visiting with everyone. The music was good. The pupus we tasty and we thoroughly enjoyed the pickleball stories past and present. Another mahalo nui for including us in your celebration. ....oh, and it was nice to see Pierce Brosnan and wife Keely in attendance.

Enjoy The Summer,

Jack Hodges

District Pickleball Ambassador - Hawaii

Kaua'i Resident



Pule (Blessing)



Part of the Picklehood





With Ted's wife, Betty



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