

Bob Gallagher – Dec. 14, 2023



From daughter Colby Gallagher

It is with a heavy heart that I share that my father, Bob Gallagher Jr has passed away. Though he has been declining over the past 6 months or so I didn't expect to be writing this little tribute quite so soon or from my postpartum hospital bed, however life is full of surprises. Being the youngest child, dad and I were not the closest in my earlier years but we had become very close over the past decade while I have been his primary caretaker. I often chronicled our adventures on fb so I could share updates about him with some of his old friends and family members- he always loved when I'd read him the plethora of selfie comments we'd get from friends and family all over the country.

In addition to being glad we were able to become closer in his later years, I am grateful that many of my close friends were so quick to adopt Bob. Aside from the Covid years, dad always had a great turnout for his birthday parties and we always spent holidays surrounded by my friends. Dad was always paid a little extra attention to make sure he felt valued and welcomed. I am also grateful that dad got to see me "settled down" with my spouse Owen and that he got to see me start my family. His face would always light up when he spent time with Éamonn 😊. He was excited about meeting my daughter though ultimately, they were ships passing in the night.

As I mentioned dad has been declining a bit over the past 6 months and has been in long term care for almost two years. He recently came down with Covid and rapidly developed a pneumonia. Dad ended up being admitted to the same intensive care unit that I worked on for many years. I was lucky to have the opportunity to see him and say my goodbyes on my way to my c-section. Even though I have been gone from there the past 5 + years there were still many friendly faces there on dad's last day. He was ultimately cared for by a great friend and nurse that I worked elbow to elbow with for over ten years. She cared and advocated for him as she would have her own father and I take great comfort in that - I am

especially grateful that, though I could not be there with him in his last moments, she made sure he was comfortable and never alone.