



Robert W Hilliard

July 17, 1982 - September 24, 2025

It is with overwhelming love and gratitude that we remember the life of Robert W. Hilliard jr, age 43, of Chicago, who passed away September 24th 2025.

Robert had a gift for connecting with people and making everyone feel welcome. He cherished his career at Thoughtworks, where he not only excelled professionally but also truly enjoyed the friendships, teamwork, and travel that came with his role.

Outside of the office, Robert's happiest moments were often spent on the field or court, playing softball and volleyball, and cheering on his friends and teammates. He had a natural warmth that made meeting new people a joy- for him and everyone lucky enough to meet him.

Robert is lovingly remembered by his stepfather Russ; his sisters Jennifer, Kelly, and Lu Ann; his step siblings, Valerie, Tracy, Greg, and Allison; his Uncle Ed, and his wife Joan; and countless friends, colleagues, and teammates who will miss his humor, kindness, and generous spirit. He is preceded in death by his mother Cindy Hilliard, his father Robert W. Hilliard Sr, his aunt Susie, and his uncle Ken.

His life was a beautiful example of how much joy one person can bring simply by being themselves. Robert's laughter, energy, and love will be deeply

missed and forever remembered.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/robert-hilliard>

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 2. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Barr Funeral Home
6222 N. Broadway
Chicago, IL 60660
(773) 743-4034
info@barrfuneralhome.com
<https://barrfuneralhome.com/>

Service

OCT 2. 8:00 PM (CT)

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6222 N. Broadway
Chicago, IL 60660
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Tribute Wall

PA

“ I worked with Robert at TW in a couple of different capacities. In my role as the Chicago Office Principal Robert’s enthusiasm inspired me to drive community in the office. His organization skills kept the office running enabling me to focus on other things. After my Office Principal role I remained friends with Robert because he was an amazing person. I last spoke with him the night before his mother’s service. He wanted to run his eulogy by me. It was thoughtful and heartfelt. Even though I didn’t see him regularly, i am sad that I cannot reach out to him now. He was very special to me.

Patricia - October 03, 2025 at 11:52 AM

PA

Cont. I am so sad to have missed the service. Even though I’m not religious, I did light a candle in a number of churches in Italy for his beautiful soul.

Patricia - October 03, 2025 at 12:02 PM

MJ

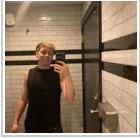
“ Honestly I cannot believe I'm typing this. I've known Robert for several years through volleyball and softball. A lovely and genuine angel on earth and now watching over us. It was only two weeks ago that i saw you last at volleyball. I wish the future was mine to see. More would have been said. I will miss your smiling face and our quiet trash talk from the bleachers.

Matty J - October 02, 2025 at 05:19 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert W Hilliard.

October 02, 2025 at 05:12 PM



“ I knew Robert just over a year but we became friends quickly given his sweet and welcoming personality. One memory I'll never forget about Robert is one of our very first interactions which was him asking when my birthday was shortly after we introduced ourselves to each other after joining the same volleyball team. Something that seemed so small and was never brought up again but he managed to remember a strangers birthday for months and had went out of his way to get me a little surprise present, that's when I knew that Robert and I would be friends for good. He was always so sweet, thoughtful, and went out of his way to make others feel welcomed. And making real friendships in your 30's isn't exactly the easiest thing to do. Losing Robert is very heartbreaking and he is already miss dearly <3



Nick Braund - October 02, 2025 at 03:21 PM

LC

“ Laurie Cappitelli lit a candle in memory of Robert W Hilliard



Laurie Cappitelli - October 02, 2025 at 03:18 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert W Hilliard.

October 02, 2025 at 03:07 PM

GV

“ *Grecia V. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Robert W Hilliard.*



Grecia V. - October 02, 2025 at 03:15 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert W Hilliard.

October 01, 2025 at 10:14 PM

CB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Caleb Boclair - October 01, 2025 at 09:12 PM

BC

“ It’s taken me a few days to figure out what to write, but in the short time we got to work together I got to see the bright star that Robert was, not just for Thoughtworks but for the wider community. I was lucky enough to call him a friend and not just a coworker.

This picture was after a day of going around and looking at ideas for the next office designs we were looking to do. I think it encapsulates the absolute magic balance of sassy, caring, confident, warm, engaging and welcoming person he was. He was so creative but also pragmatic, embracing big ideas but also making sure we could bring them to life. He appreciated well thought through pieces and concepts that were designed to bring people together.

Robert architected Gather at TW, it was such a proud moment for me seeing him build and grow this new thing that embraced his passion of connecting humans and building community. We now have the reigns to continue this and keep it alive for him.

Your team is going to miss you, Thoughtworks is going to miss you, the many communities you created and fueled are going to miss you. Chicago will miss you. I will miss you.

May the sky be a bit brighter as it has gained another star.



Ben Caunt - October 01, 2025 at 12:50 PM

AA

“ AAC purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Robert W Hilliard.



AAC - October 01, 2025 at 12:17 PM

KI

“ Kieran lit a candle in memory of Robert W Hilliard



Kieran - October 01, 2025 at 11:13 AM

KI

I will always miss Robert's bright and positive spirit, and all of our collaboration on events. Robert truly took care of us and I learned from him.

Kieran - October 01, 2025 at 11:14 AM

EH

“ Eric Harrison purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert W Hilliard.



Eric Harrison - September 30, 2025 at 07:28 PM

EH

“ Eric Harrison planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert W Hilliard.

Eric Harrison - September 30, 2025 at 07:28 PM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert W Hilliard.*



September 30, 2025 at 02:36 PM



“ *Johannah Vuckovich planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert W Hilliard.*

Johannah Vuckovich - September 30, 2025 at 12:10 PM



“ *Johannah Vuckovich purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Robert W Hilliard.*



Johannah Vuckovich - September 30, 2025 at 12:10 PM

VI

“ *It's still such a shock that he's gone, and honestly, I'm heart broken. But we're here to celebrate him, our amazing friend.*

He was just the kindest soul. His empathy was a superpower that made all of us genuinely better.

That caring spirit flowed from his love for Toronto to the office itself. As a long-time advocate for the community, his passion was key in helping us Toronto Anchors keep the community thriving, especially when our group was small. He continued to advocate for us when he visited our Toronto office. I always looked forward to hanging out with him when he was here.

I'm going to miss his steady advice and knowing he always had our back. Thank you for everything. I will miss him very much.



Vivian - September 30, 2025 at 11:26 AM

RT

“ *Ramona & the TW legal team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert W Hilliard.*

Ramona & the TW legal team - September 30, 2025 at 09:10 AM

RT

“ *Ramona & the TW legal team purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Robert W Hilliard.*



Ramona & the TW legal team - September 30, 2025 at 09:10 AM

GT

“ *Robert ❤️ was such a special soul. One of those people who made you feel instantly at ease. Over the 6 years of our ritual monthly call we talked endlessly about human connection and how important it is... we had plans to do a podcast on our Global friendship 🤔*

I feel so incredibly lucky that Robert came all the way over from Chicago to Manchester, UK to spend time with me and my friends. How we danced, laughed and sang our hearts out to musical theatre songs!

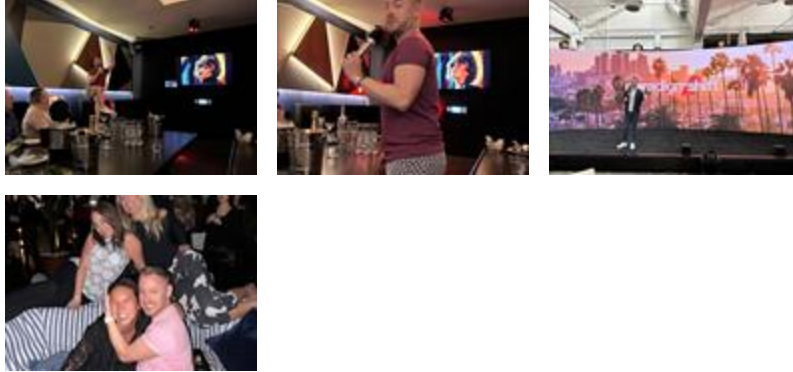
I will treasure my memories of Robert, forever ❤️



Gill Taylor - September 30, 2025 at 06:59 AM

JS

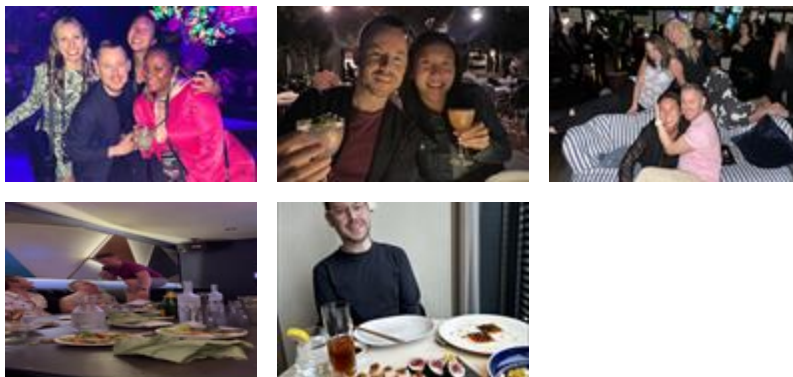
“ A beautiful, vibrant soul who lit up every room, and filled it with laughter. How lucky we were to know you and spend time with you, Robert. Your kindness and your energy leave a legacy that can never be replaced. Rest well, sweet friend xxx



JoJo Swords - September 30, 2025 at 05:57 AM

BH

“ Robert was an absolute joy to be around and I'm heartbroken to know he's no longer here with us. We had so many fun memories at the events we worked together, and he always made time for a lunch catch up whenever we were in the same city. He never failed to make us all laugh, and he will be so greatly missed. Rest easy, Robert.



Bonnie Hong - September 30, 2025 at 12:32 AM



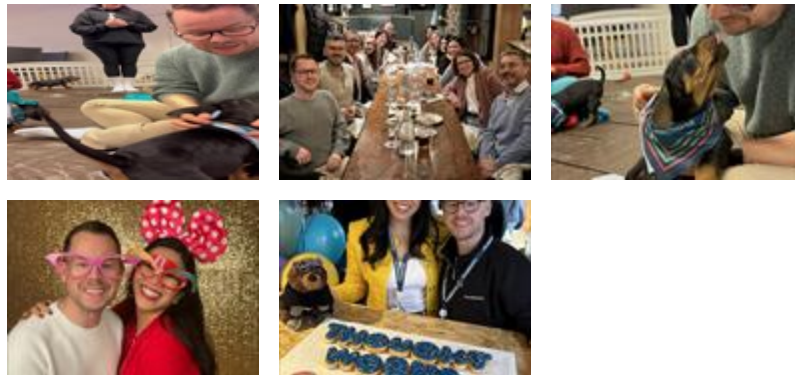
“ I was privileged to serve on the Appreciation & Recognition Squad with Robert. That was when I really got to know him. Practical, caring, and a model of what it means to have healthy boundaries and a work life balance. He was also kind enough to organize a lunch in Chicago on my final day at Thoughtworks this past December.



Tamara Nicholl-Smith - September 29, 2025 at 10:08 PM



“ I'll miss your bright joy and light everytime you came to visit Toronto or when I came to visit Chicago. I hope wherever you are you are getting all the puppy cuddles and all dressed chips your heart desires. Thank you for being the most generous soul, you will forever be in our hearts Robert 💕💕



Emily Chan - September 29, 2025 at 09:52 PM

RM

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Rainey McGinnis - September 29, 2025 at 09:02 PM

RM

I miss him so much!!!!

Rainey McGinnis - September 29, 2025 at 09:02 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert W Hilliard.

September 29, 2025 at 08:56 PM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Robert W Hilliard.



September 29, 2025 at 08:56 PM

BS

“ Bradford, Tony, Dan, Juan Carlos & Sean purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Robert W Hilliard.



Bradford, Tony, Dan, Juan Carlos & Sean - September 29, 2025 at 08:54 PM

SH

“ Robert wasn't just the leader of our team —he was my friend. From the day I was hired, I felt his kindness and compassion. He had a way of making people feel seen, heard, and valued. Robert was sweet, patient, and always easy to talk to. God placed him in my life for just four years, but the bond we built feels like it spanned a lifetime. I am so grateful to have known him, and I will miss him deeply. Rest in heavenly peace, Robert.



Shirl Haley - September 29, 2025 at 07:45 PM

DA

Sorry to the family of loss of there family member.

Danielle - September 29, 2025 at 08:27 PM

TE

“ I am so sorry to all for the loss of Robert - his family, his friends and his Thoughtworkers. I truly can't say it better than has already been said "He had a natural warmth that made meeting new people a joy-for him and everyone lucky enough to meet him." Robert made everyone he met feel good about where we were, where we were going and how we were going to get there - together. When we closed the Thoughtworks Atlanta office, Robert accepted all of us with open arms (back) into the Chicago office. It takes effort to keep so many people engaged and caring for one another. That was his super power - loving people & caring about connecting. Oh how we'll miss you Robert. 😊

Terri - September 29, 2025 at 05:53 PM

MZ

“ Robert was an amazing colleague and, above all, a great human being. Condolences to his family. You will be deeply missed, Robert.



Mario Zovko - September 29, 2025 at 05:09 PM

WW

“ Warmest regards, Trish (Rieken) Westbury planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert W Hilliard.

Warmest regards, Trish (Rieken) Westbury - September 29, 2025 at 05:08 PM

WW

“ Warmest regards, Trish (Rieken) Westbury purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert W Hilliard.



Warmest regards, Trish (Rieken) Westbury - September 29, 2025 at 05:08 PM

JG

“ I, like anyone who new Robert, am heartbroken over Robert's passing. He was excellent in his work, the best. More importantly, he was fun to work with and a joy to be around. He will be deeply missed.

John Gentry - September 29, 2025 at 04:48 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert W Hilliard.

September 29, 2025 at 04:36 PM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Robert W Hilliard.



September 29, 2025 at 04:36 PM



“ My “Broadway husband!” Thank you for the laughs and tears, sharing the love of theatre with me. You will be missed ❤️



Evette Elizabeth - September 29, 2025 at 03:56 PM



“ Robert was such a warm and incredible person, who always brought joy when you were around him. He will be sorely missed.

Bradley Mirly - September 29, 2025 at 03:48 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Robert W Hilliard.*



September 29, 2025 at 02:37 PM