Robert Lloyd Shirley, 74, died on Saturday, March 8, 2008, in Salt Lake City, Utah, after a ten-month battle with kidney cancer. He was born on May 24, 1933, in Gordo, Alabama, to George Malcolm Shirley and Mabel Moss Shirley, then sharecroppers, and later grocers and restaurant owners. Raised in Bessemer, Alabama, he excelled academically in high school, and was awarded a scholarship to Harvard University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics in 1955 and met his future wife, Mary Coe (Molly) Lind, of Winnetka, Illinois. They married while he was serving as a Naval officer and navigator aboard the U.S.S. Hancock. After his naval service, he entered the Harvard University School of Business. Moving to Evanston, Illinois, after earning his MBA in 1960, he worked in a number of businesses before founding Lind-Shirley Associates, a financial consulting firm. He later became a founding partner of David M. Griffith and Associates, retiring from that company in 1986. In 1989, he and Molly moved to Flagstaff, Arizona, where they were active in their church and in supporting gay rights. On Valentine’s Day, 2001, they sold their house and moved into their minivan to travel, which they did until his illness took them off the road. In addition to his wife, Molly, he is survived by his children: Michael Hathorn Shirley (Debra Shirley), of Tuscola, Illinois; Sarah Ann Shirley (Bob Branham), of Andalusia, Alabama; and Peter Schuyler Shirley (Jean Buckley), of Salt Lake City, Utah; an infant daughter, Elizabeth Lind Shirley, died in 1962. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Jacob Allan Shirley, Katherine Elizabeth Shirley, George Allen Petit, and Miranda Jean Shirley. He loved his family, social justice, garden-fresh tomatoes, poker, computers, and golf. A memorial service will be held at Christ Church, 784 Sheridan Road, Winnetka, Illinois, on Wednesday, April 9, at 11 am. Donations in his name may be made to the Kidney Cancer Association, 1988 Momentum Place, Chicago, IL 60689-5319; PFLAG Flagstaff, PO Box 23527, Flagstaff, AZ, 86002; or YMCA Family Camp Nawakwa, 13400 Camp Nawakwa Lane, Lac du Flambeau, WI, 54538.

“All Christly souls are one in Him Throughout the whole wide earth

In Christ now meet both East and West, In Him meet North and South

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