

# In Brief

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IN MEMORIAM

## Remembering Rob Roque



It is with sadness that we announce that Rob Roque, GFOA's Technology Services Manager, died unexpectedly on June 13, 2024. He was 58 years old.

For more than 26 years, Rob Roque helped lead GFOA's Research and Consulting Center, providing guidance, advocacy, encouragement, education, and consulting services for hundreds of state and local governments working through ERP system selection and implementation. Having worked on the City of Pittsburgh's PeopleSoft implementation in the 1990s, Roque came to GFOA to help build a consulting practice aimed at providing independent, objective, and honest guidance for governments in need of strategic direction. He excelled at project management, explaining how government ERP systems can be used to improve processes, deciphering and explaining technical concepts to a non-technical audience, and standing up against ERP software vendors' constant pursuit of change orders.

Roque was an advocate for his clients and for GFOA best practices. He also strived to develop new, innovative, and creative ways to deliver GFOA's services. Throughout his time at GFOA, Rob helped train and mentor at least 35 consultants, worked with more than 150 government clients, wrote numerous *GFR* articles, and led many GFOA conference sessions and webinars. Roque also staffed GFOA's standing committees, helped lead GFOA's Technical Resource Group (an informal collection of industry advisors), worked with GFOA's internal team on artificial intelligence (AI), and planned numerous conference sessions on AI, robotic process automation, cybersecurity, and technology innovation at the June 2024 GFOA conference in Orlando, Florida.

GFOA staff will long remember Rob as a trusted colleague, mentor, and friend. His door was always open, and many of us sought out Rob's help with feedback on a project, questions on anything technical, discussions on current events or politics, or simply a good laugh. Rob was always willing to take on a new assignment, loved being the first person at GFOA to pilot and play around with new technology, and managed to get involved with numerous cross-department working groups and task forces to set policies on GFOA systems, work-from-home guidelines, cybersecurity, use of AI, office dress code, and more.

In addition to his roles at GFOA, Rob served on the executive board for the Chicagoland Project Management Institute as vice president of technology, volunteered at his church, and, most importantly, was a very proud husband and father. He frequently shared stories of his two children, one who just completed a Ph.D. in Physics and the other a successful teacher. Rob enjoyed riding his bike, traveling with his family, and connecting with colleagues for a beer.

Rob Roque leaves a lasting legacy at GFOA, and he will be missed. Rob's life was an inspiring testament to the power of laughter, curiosity, and unyielding kindness. ☞