

ROBERT EARL SNR 'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN MIAMI

Dear Brother Rat's,

I had the very great pleasure along with my wife Bee, PP Michael Black and the lovely Julie Rogers to attend this most wonderful event and I just wanted to share the experience with you all.

The invitation came from Robert Jnr who said just get your flights and I will take care of the rest...well he sure did.

Bee and I arrived late in the evening on Wed 16th November met by a chauffeur who drove us to our hotel, The St Regis in Bal Harbour, when we got there we were checked into a suite with its own private lift, two bedrooms, two kitchens, a massive lounge, three balconies, all overlooking the ocean and a butler!!!...there was a bowl of fruit and a lovely bottle of red wine waiting for us and a message from Robert Jnr asking us to join him at a restaurant over the road from the hotel.

Thinking this would be for a quick drink to say hello we got there to find we were joining about 30 other guests including PP Michael and Julie for a most fantastic meal. What a way to start the event...

On the Thursday morning we met up with PP Michael and Julie at Starbucks for coffee and a cream cheese bagel as we did from there on every morning. How very Jewish!!!! But nice.

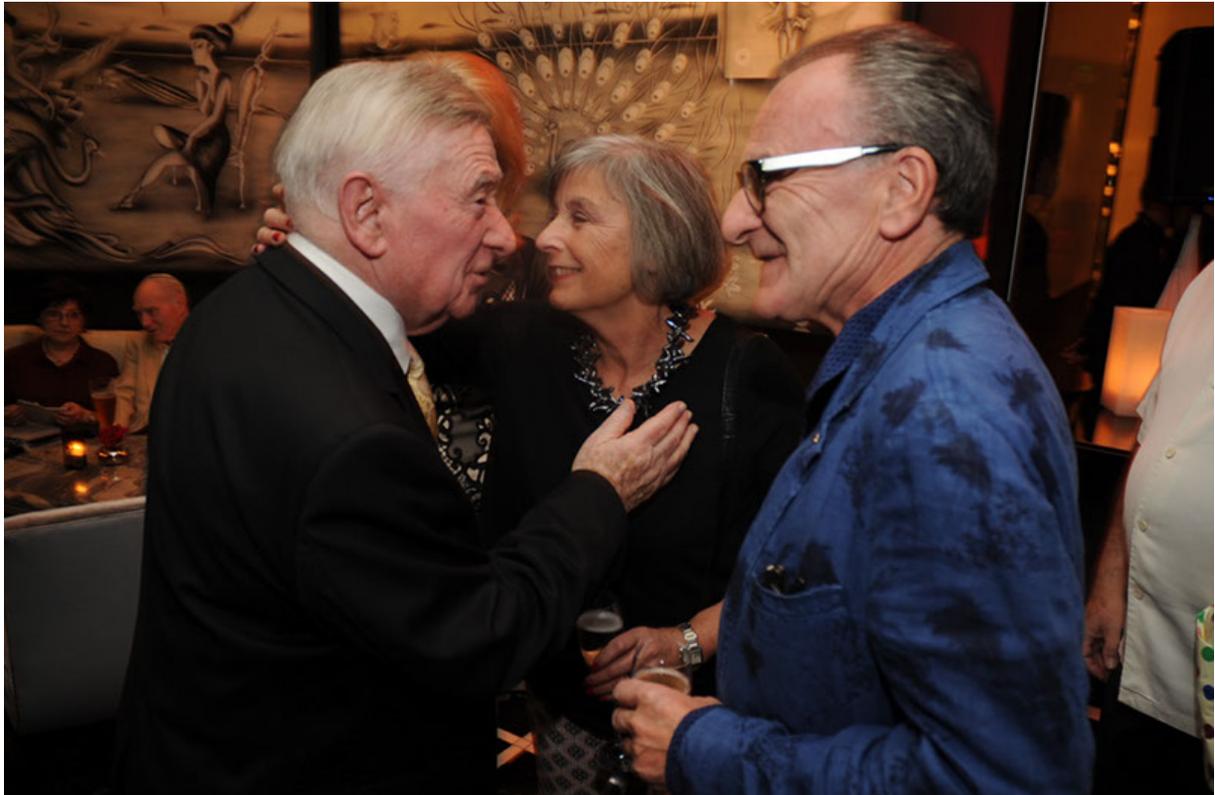
After breakfast I called my dear friend and Brother Water Rat Nico McBrain from Iron Maiden who lives in Boca Rotan to say hello, he said "jump in a cab and come over to the house" which we did.

Bee and I spent a most wonderful time chatting with Nico and Rebecca, before Nico and I decided to have a game of snooker on his championship table which he had shipped in from England, needless to say as a guest, I let him win!!!! He also showed me his collection of very rare snare drums. Photo's attached for all you music and snooker buffs. after that Nico invited Bee and I to his restaurant 'Rock n Roll Ribs' for a late lunch, the Ribs where the best I have ever tasted, Nico then drove us back to our hotel as we had to be back by 6pm for the first of what was to be three great nights celebrating Robert Earl Snr's 90th birthday. Thank you Nico your hospitality was so very kind. A true Brother Rat.





Back at the St Regis we got changed for a lavish welcome buffet which took place at the hotel, there about 80 of us all greeted Robert Snr, who I have to say looks absolutely fabulous, it was a great night meeting friends and work colleagues' of both Robert Snr and Jnr, and for me personally it was extra special as there were people there who I had lost touch with many years ago and it was so nice to re kindle the friendship. We went to bed at about midnight after a long but eventful day.



Sharing a few memories of my late father Davy with Robert Snr.





Michael and Robert Snr raising a glass



Robert Snr telling me he doesn't sing any more!!!!!!



PP Michael holding court



Robert Snr and Jnr with a guest from LA

Robert Jnr presenting a very nice Birthday cake to his Dad..



Friday Breakfast at Starbucks and then a day by the pool, just relaxing before the evening event, a meal with 100 guests at 'Estiatorio Milos Miami' a most fantastic Greek restaurant. At 6pm two very large coaches turned up to take us all to the restaurant, champagne and lots of laughs travelling to and from the restaurant, and what a meal, mezza, beautiful fish, various deserts and great wine.

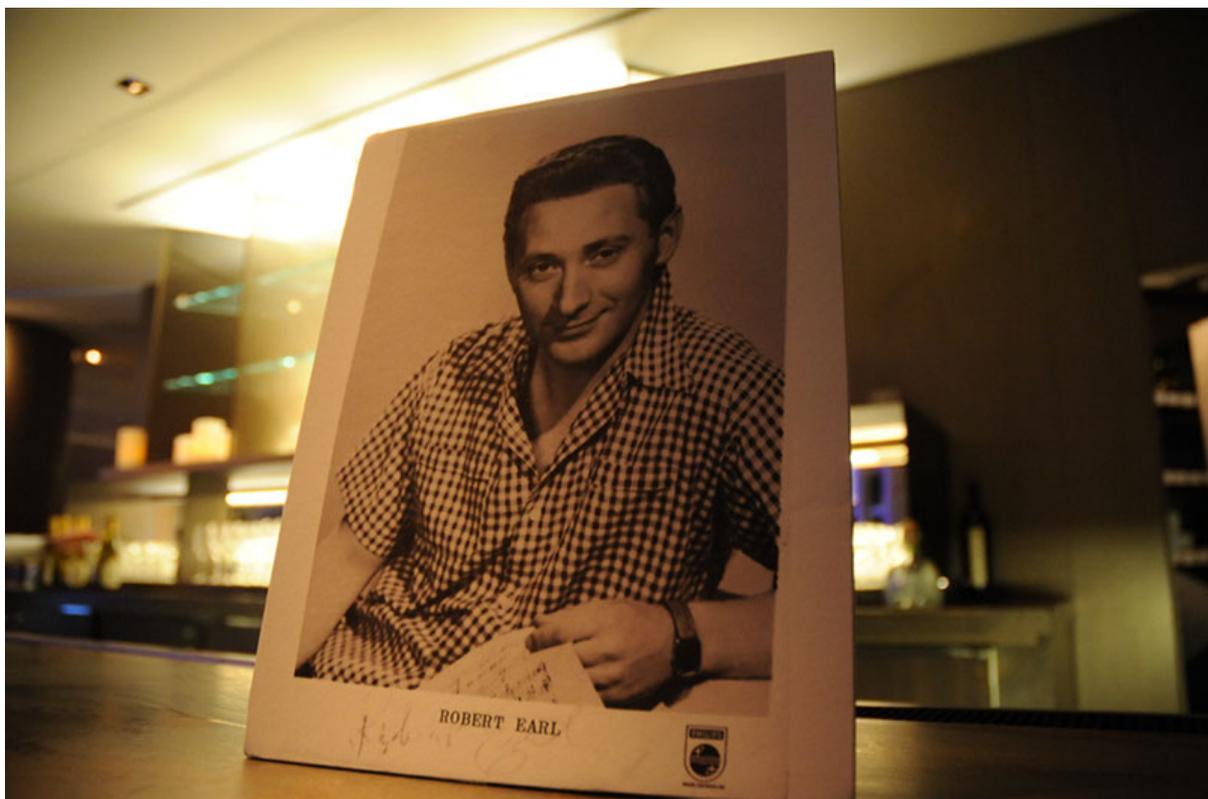
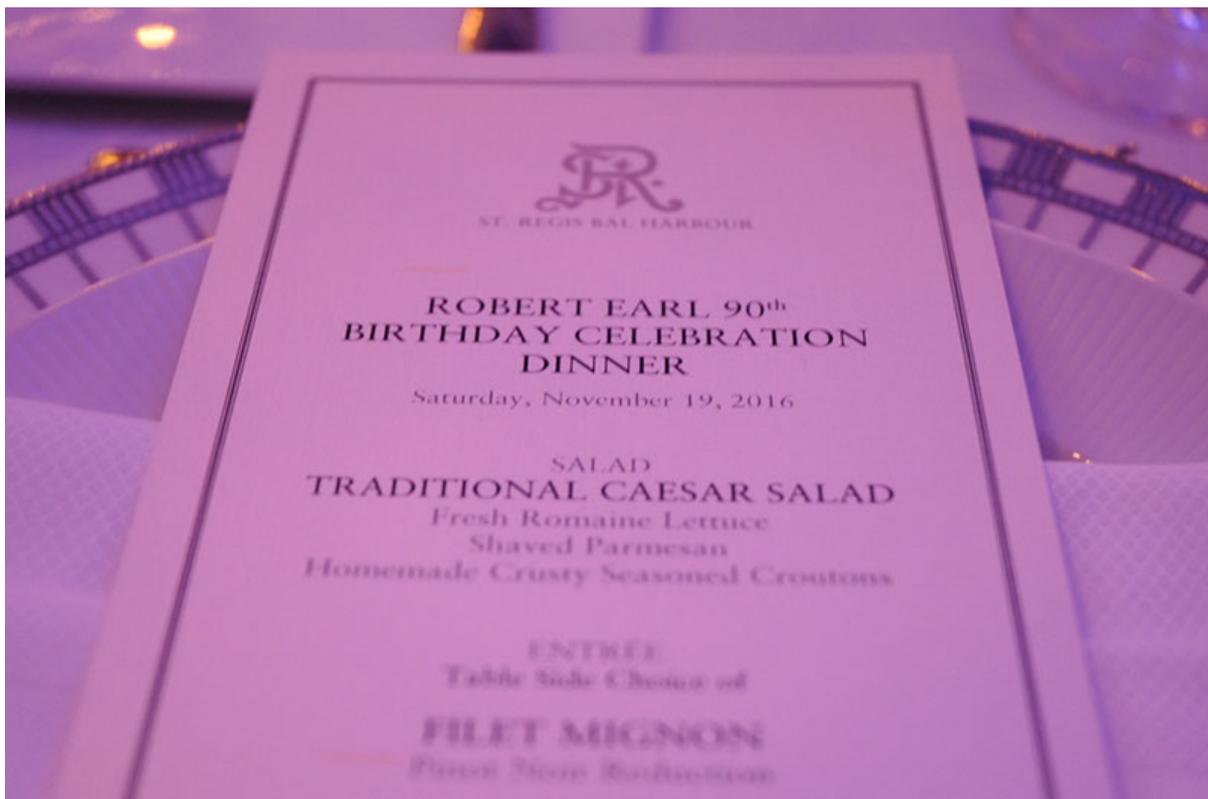
Back to the Hotel for drinks in the bar

Another amazing day. Bed at, I don't know what time. But late.





Saturday, yes breakfast at Starbucks, then a trip to a shopping Mall for retail therapy and a slice of Cheesecake from the Cheesecake factory, oh bliss!!!! Back to the hotel to get changed for the grand celebration party. And what a special night this was, we arrived for a champagne reception with music by a really great guitar player, who had a few of us already dancing around the room, followed by a most fantastic meal, of Lobster, Prawns, smoked salmon, followed by steak, and dessert, accompanied by Champagne, white and red wines. During the evening we had various tributes to Robert Snr from his friends and really moving tributes from his family especially from his grandchildren. Robert Jnr then got up to announce the cabaret, it was his pleasure to bring on one of Robert Snr's favourite singers, Brother Water Rat Englebert Humperdink, this really was a surprise to us all, Englebert serenaded us with his many hit songs, but the highlight came when he got Robert Snr up to join him in the song 'My Way', bearing in mind Robert Snr had told me during one of our conversations that he no longer sang, well as soon as he got up, the true professional came out, and I am sure Englebert won't mind me saying, but he stole the show and got a well-deserved standing ovation, and believe me he can still sing. A very special moment, as was this whole trip.













Happy Birthday Robert Earl Snr.....

Sunday, yes you guessed it breakfast at Starbucks followed by a day by the pool with Michael and Julie, and a very nice bike ride along the ocean with an old friend Brian Raven, before checking out of our amazing home for four days and heading to the airport for the flight home, and back to reality.

My personal thanks to Robert Jnr for the most amazing hospitality and friendship showed to Bee and myself, it was clear from the start how very proud both Robert Jnr and Snr are at being Water Rats and it was an honour for me to be there as a Brother Rat along with PP Michael Black.

A special thanks must also go to the amazing Amanda Simmerman, Robert Jnr's Executive assistant who co-ordinated everything for us 'Thank You'.

I am so very proud to be a member of this wonderful Order.

PKR Cllr Kaplan Kaye BM

Happy Christmas & a Happy and Healthy
New Year.