



Ralph E. Summers

October 26, 2014

Ralph Edward Summers, Jr., 75, formerly of Little Rock, St. Louis and Farmington, passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 26 at Fountainbleau Lodge in Cape Girardeau. He was born May 19, 1939 in Little Rock, Arkansas to the late Ralph Edward, Sr. and Frances (McDougal) Summers. After ending active service in the U.S. Army in 1964, Ralph was an electrician for 35 years at Ford Motor Company in St. Louis, where he was a member of the United Auto Workers Local 325. He was a certified SCUBA diver and tree farmer, and an accomplished pilot flying Cessna airplanes was his hobby for several years. He was an avid outdoorsman and conservationist, and spent time fishing, hunting and farming. He was a member of the Freemasons Tyro Lodge No. 12 A.F. & A.M. in Caledonia. Family life Ralph met Mary Hinkle in mid-1971, and asked her to marry him late that year. After a few days of deliberation (which he never let her forget about), she agreed. They were married at Mary's parents' home in Gipsy, Mo. on February 26, 1972. They honeymooned in Jamaica, and spent most of their married life and raised their three children in the St. Louis area, before moving to Farmington in 1995. Ralph said that his greatest joy was spending time with his family. Ralph was fun-loving and had a playful sense of humor, and thoroughly enjoyed being a father. He was a very involved father. He won acclaim for his rich, multi-character readings of children's books, including Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys mysteries. He liked playing baseball and softball with his children he built and invented a swingball to aid their batting practice and taught

them to ride a bicycle. He was a fantastic sled-rider. Survivors include his wife, Mary Summers of Cape Girardeau; their son, Matthew (Carolee) Summers-Sparks of London; their daughters, Miranda (fiancé, Alex Batts) Summers of New York City, Molly (James) Samons of Cape Girardeau; siblings, Ann Roos, and Susan, Jonathan, Stephen and James Summers; grandchildren, Orson Summers-Sparks and Charlotte Samons; and numerous nieces and nephews. Ralph's wife, children, future son-in-law and his sister Susan Summers were present at his death. Visitation will be Wednesday, October 29, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel. A celebration of life including Masonic services will begin at 1 p.m. with Rev. Stan Hargis officiating. Private burial will be at a later date at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, 1359 Broadway, Suite 1509, New York, NY 10018. Online condolences may be shared at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

PY

“ WORKED WITH RALPH FOR A LONG TIME, RALPH WAS A GREAT GUY AND FUN TO BE WITH AT WORK. I AM TRULY SORRY. PETE YOUNG

PETE YONG - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ Ralph and I started our apprenticeship together in 1966 He was a friend and will be missed by not only his family. My sympathies to you

John W. Vohsen - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

WG

“ We were so saddened to hear of your fathers passing. You and your family are in our thoughts and our prayers. Warren and Kathleen Gross

Warren and Kathleen Gross - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Good friend and an enjoyable workmate

David Burney - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ My Sweet Cousin Mary and family , we are truly Sorry for your lose , I will always remember being at your Wedding ,visiting you with your Sister Sue ,when Matthew was a baby ! And of course your Wonderful Mother & Father ,your whole family invited me into your home to live during High School Years ! If there ever is anything you need ,I would be Proud to help you and your family in anyway !Love you ! Your Cousin Carol Jean (Jeanie) Myers Thoughts & Prayers from Mom & Dad,Dorothy & Clarence Myers

Carol (Myers) Lemons - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ To Ralph's family. I worked with Ralph at Ford, and was his Union rep, for many year's.He was a fantastic guy, did his job, never complained, and alway's was on the job. Of course I haven's seen him since 1996, but I still have the memory's. My sincere condolences to the entire family, my thought's and prayer's are with you. John

John R. Sherlock - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ Please accept my deepest sympathy for I too know the pain of losing someone you love. May your family find comfort as I have in knowing that our loving heavenly Father promises us that very soon he will 'swallow up death forever, and wipe away the tears from all faces.' (Isaiah 25:8) What a wonderful day that will be!

K. Jackson - February 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ Dear Summers Family, I'm so sorry for your loss. Ralph was a very sweet man and I know he'll be missed. You'll be in my prayers.

Linda Myers (Summers) Duncan - January 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM