

RALPH LUND



Ralph Bassinger Lund, age 94, passed away on Monday, April 15, 2024, with his wife of 44 years, Patti Hughes, at his side. Also he is survived by his son John Lund of Harrisburg and his daughter Karen Barczak (Mark) of Pittsburgh from his 25-year marriage to the late Mickey (Michelle) Leffler Lund. After growing up in Bisbee, North Dakota, his parents moved the family to Sacramento, California where he graduated from San Juan High School. He was accepted into the University of California, Berkley, and received a degree in Engineering. An ALCOA manufacturing plant in California was his first job and he enjoyed a 43-year career with them. During his career, he relocated and lived in several cities in the U.S. and appreciated working abroad in multiple countries, concluding his working life at the main Pittsburgh headquarters. In retirement, he was inspired by friends and family to enjoy a wide range of activities. Fly Fishing with his brother-in-law, Lyle, and nephew Jon, was really like the movie "A River Runs Through It" - water rushing around his waist-high waders. White water rafting events with Patti's family always gave him a thrill. Golf outings with son-in-law, Mark and Patti's cousin Paul were challenging - but his short game never improved. He loved traveling. His sister, Margaret, arranged numerous trips with friends and always included Patti and Ralph. He said he traveled around the world twice - listing 47 countries visited!! While his son was stationed in Germany, Ralph got to get a look at how well John could drive the autobahn often telling his Dad to just close his eyes and pray. He worked on the Board of the Pittsburgh Alcoa Retirees Club, even developing their website. Local history became a passion while working on the Board of Squirrel Hill Historical Society. He enjoyed all the Pittsburgh sports team events that he and Patti attended with Karen and Mark and friends Mike and Esta, even if they were sometimes disappointing. Always very opinionated, he would say "the Pirates would be better next year if they had a new owner". Exercise was important, so he and his Walking Group (ranging from one to 12 fabulous people) made the 3-1/2 mile trek around Squirrel Hill seven days a week for many years. The most enjoyable part of this was the coffee shop ending where they would all eat and drink while discussing world events. There were so many family events over his long lifetime. Some sad - the passing of his brother, sister, nephew, and several cousins. Some very happy - the California wedding of his great-niece Kristen Walker, the christening of Patti's nephew Tom's first daughter in Hoboken, the 100th birthday party in Palm Springs that he organized for his sister, Margaret, the 90th birthday party for his brother, Graham, in Las Vegas, and the family gathering at his own 80th birthday in Lake Tahoe. Recently he would spend hours on the deck watching the clouds and the birds with his newest stray cat, Stretch, on his lap. All of these events made life so worthwhile. Ralph was strong-willed and stubborn at times, but he also had an enormous heart and wonderful sense of humor. He was clever and full to the brim with knowledge gained through his life experiences: engineer, fisherman, sailor, and do-it-yourself-er. He, with his wife Patti, as the apprentice, would fix or build anything. So, that is how he will be remembered with love and laughter. Arrangements entrusted to the **JOHN N. ELACHKO FUNERAL HOME**, 3447 Dawson St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Services will be private. Memorial donations can be made to either the Pittsburgh Community Food Bank or Tree Pittsburgh. Please visit Ralph's memorial page at ELACHKO.com.

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb