



Rasmus Anfin Erdal

June 28, 2023

Rasmus Anfin Erdal, 91, died peacefully in his sleep on June 28, 2023, after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. While he lost the battle, he looked forward to “getting the last laugh” on his cancer with his cremation. His spirit never dimmed.

Rasmus was born in Waukegan, Illinois to Norwegian immigrant parents and one older sister, Clara. They moved to Brooklyn when he was 5. Active in the Boy Scouts, Rasmus attended Brooklyn Technical High School, a very competitive science and technology high school, and concentrated on math and electrical systems while also being an all-around athlete. Rasmus attended City College of New York (CCNY) and took ROTC while majoring in Industrial Arts education. He also played football for their powerhouse football team, for one day, before CCNY cancelled all athletics over a sport betting scandal. Fulfilling his ROTC duties, Rasmus was stationed “overseas” in Alaska (Alaska was not yet a state), and was part of a ski battalion, training at “Arctic Indoctrination School” during the cold war (pun intended).

When he left the Army, Rasmus began teaching Industrial Arts at Flushing High School in Queens, where he taught for 35 years. He was both “Industrially” trained as an auto technician and woodworker and draftsman, and “Artistically” trained in painting (rosemaling), needlework (hardanger), and drawing. There is nothing he couldn’t translate from his imagination to reality.

Rasmus met Marian, a fellow first-year teacher, in 1957, at a friend's wedding. They were married the next year, and for the next 64 years. Their love and compatibility were legendary. Their two daughters were raised to appreciate nature and camping and academics and competitive athletics. When the nest was empty, they left NY and moved to Colorado and filled their days with volunteering for Poudre Wilderness, Habitat for Humanity, World Hunger relief, and Sons of Norway, and filled their lives with elderhostels and Colorado State University events and hiking 14-ers and camping and grandchildren and being a torch runner for the Salt Lake City Olympics at the age of 70. They were exhausting just to watch, and Rasmus' exuberance and positivity was unparalleled (as was, in contrast, his viciousness in Scrabble). A lifelong learner, he read the newspaper and did the crosswords with Marian daily, and when watching TV, chose the science channels (and some football).

Rasmus' legacy includes 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren who also represent math majors, educators, athletes, and nature-lovers. His legacy includes hundreds of friends across the country, beloved relatives in Norway, and thousands of people who have benefitted from his volunteerism and generosity. He literally whistled while he worked, as his work and service was his joy. He will be missed terribly by all those who knew him, and everyone else may just notice a slightly dimmer world for a while. If you can fit the word "quiz" in a triple word slot in Scrabble, you may feel Rasmus' presence.

A Celebration of Life is to be held on Monday, July 3 at 2pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Loveland, CO.

Should you wish to make a donation in Ras' memory:

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers: <https://www.pwv.org/donate>

Or checks can be sent to: PWV

2519 S. Shields St.
Ste 1K #202
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Sons of Norway, Steinfjell lodge plans to have a link available on steinfjell.com very soon.

Trinity Lutheran Church: <https://trinityloveland.org/>

Or checks can be sent to: Trinity Lutheran Church
3333 Duffield Avenue
Loveland, CO 80538

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 3. 2:00 PM (MT)

Trinity Lutheran Church
3333 Duffield Avenue
Loveland, CO 80538

Tribute Wall

MA

“ *Marian & Family,*

Ras (and Marian) was my favorite hiking partner in the years I was with PWV. At 32 years my senior, Ras could hike circles around me. He was always a pleasure to visit with, an inspiration and a wealth of information. The stories he shared were incredible and I loved hearing about the family. I will miss him dearly!

♥♥ *Mary Ann Baak*

Mary - July 23, 2023 at 02:11 PM

SA

“ *Hearty thanks to God for the life of Ras! So enjoyed his monthly Trinity & Friends newsletters. Strength @ blessing to Marian & family.*

*Jean/Sig Arnesen
Catonsville, Md.*

Sig Arnesen - July 22, 2023 at 04:17 PM

JM

“ *Marian and Family;*

All our Love and Prayers for your comfort and peace, knowing that the the Life of Ras was full of inspiration to so many..... including us. Marian; your and Ras's friendship over the years through Sons of Norway, brings wonderful and fond memories..... your leadership, service and kindness.... were so inspiring. We were honored to be invited and attend your Anniversary celebration with so many Friends and Family..... a tribute to the way you both touched so many lives! In prayerful sympathy, Eunice and Jim Michalka

James Michalka - July 03, 2023 at 12:25 PM

EJ

Dear Marian, The r wo if you were cherished friends, even though we've only met through Trinity and Friends. My heartfelt sympathy is with you during this troubling time.

Ellen Quitne Johnson - August 17, 2023 at 02:25 PM

KP

“*Ras was truly one of a kind...he was kind, fair minded and a gentleman. He was also a Christian and I'm sure he's up there watching us mourn his passing. He taught us how to die...he accepted end of life and lived every minute left on earth. What a wonderful man.*

Kenneth Propp - July 02, 2023 at 02:53 PM

SP

“*Thoughts and prayers to the Erdal family. I always enjoyed visiting with him at the pharmacy. I remember the day he was a torch runner for the Olympics. We closed the pharmacy and went out and stood at the curb to watch them run south on College Ave.*



Schanna Preuit - June 30, 2023 at 04:26 PM

RB

The Belcher's of Baldwin, shared the privilege of knowing him and Marian in their earlier years before they headed west to Colorado. May he rest in the peace he earned his entire life. Condolences to Marian and her family....Ruth, Bill, Deb & Kim.

Ruth, Bill, Deb and Kim Belcher - July 22, 2023 at 08:01 PM

JK

Sharing the loss of Ras with his family and many friends. Having never met him or Marian, I feel we know him/them through the Trinity and friends newsletter he so faithfully sent out each month. An abundant life well lived to the end. He is an inspiration and will always be remembered. Our warm and sincere thoughts to all the family ... Janet and Ray Kvalheim/Bay Ridge Brooklyn, NY

Janet Kvalheim - August 09, 2023 at 07:06 PM