



William P. "Bill" Rutherford

August 24, 2014

William P. "Bill" Rutherford, age 91 of Columbus passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, August 24, 2014. He was President and C.E.O. Rutherford Funeral Homes and Crematories and Licensed Funeral Director since 1944. Bill is preceded in death by his loving wife of 70 years, Helen Tracy Rutherford; parents, Perry E. and Ruth Grove Rutherford; brother, Edward E. Rutherford; and sister, Ruth E. "Bee" Green. He is survived by children, W. Arch (Carolyn) Rutherford and J. Lynn (W. Joseph) Harper; grandchildren, Tracy (Joe) Hayes, Kelly (Brendan) King, Amy (Kevin) Reed, Brett (Sarah) Harper, Craig (Erika) Rutherford; great grandchildren, Will, Ellie, Annie, Molly, Joe, Jack, John, Peter, Kaylyn, Julia, Marley and Charlotte. He was a life-long member of North United Methodist Church. Bill graduated from North High School in 1940. He was Past-President, Central Ohio Funeral Directors Association; Past-President, Ohio Funeral Directors Association; Past-Governor & Past-President, National Funeral Directors Association; Past-President, Cremation Association of North America; Past-President, Old North Hi Club; Past-President, Northern Lions Club & Melvin Jones Fellowship; Past-President, Central Ohio Vision Center; Member of Brookside Country Club; OSU President's Club, OSU Faculty Club, active member of the Buckeye Boosters, and an avid OSU Buckeye fan; Century Founders Club of The Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science; and Agonis Club. Bill was a 70 year member of Neoacacia Lodge #595, F & AM, The Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, and Corinthian Chapter #393, Order of the Eastern Star. He was

also a member of York Temple Chapter #155 RAM; York Council #115 R & SM; Columbus Commandery #69 Knights Templar; St. Jerome Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine; Aladdin Temple Shrine; Past-President & Founder, Northern Shrine Club. Bill was Coroneted a 33 Degree Mason in 2000, and was an active member of the DeMolay Legion of Honor. He was named one of the "Top Ten men of 1963" by the Citizen-Journal for his work with the blind and one of only three Ohio Funeral Directors to receive special commendation from the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, acknowledging community service and dedication to professionalism. In addition to his professional, church and charity involvement he shared many adventures with Helen as they traveled the world together. Although he will be greatly missed by those who knew him, his legacy will be carried on through his family, funeral service colleagues, past and present associates of Rutherford Funeral Homes and the many lives that he touched through the years. Funeral Services will be held at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, August 28, 2014 at the RUTHERFORD FUNERAL HOME, 2383 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43202 with Pastor W. Arch Rutherford and Rev. Tom Keene, officiating. Entombment will follow at Union Cemetery. Family will receive friends at the funeral home from 1:00-4:00 and 6:00-8:00 p.m. Wednesday with Masonic Service at 8:00 p.m. The family would like to thank Jennifer Basnett, Nicky Gaskill, Liz Franklin, and Kim Wilson. Bill and Helen's Home Health Aides and HomeReach Hospice for their care and kindness. Memorial Contributions may be made to one of the many organizations that Bill dedicated his time and talent. Online condolences may be left for the family at: www.rutherfordfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *William P. "Bill" Rutherford*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Our sincere condolences to all the Rutherfords*

Nancy and David Evans - August 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *We are saddened to hear of Bill's death. It was a pleasure to know him a little. Barbara Stofcheck*

Stofcheck-Ballinger Funeral Homesr - August 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *We have many times slowed to look at the red caboose behind your parents' home, especially when it was lit up in the evening. It was always a joyful vision to see on the nights we visited family in the neighborhood. May your parents' memory be eternal. Godspeed to them both.*

Many Highland Drive area neighbors - August 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Bill and Helen's generous support for the Masonic Children's Dyslexia Center, has spanned many, many years. Thousands of dyslexic children in central Ohio have benefitted directly from the faithful contributions the Rutherfords gave to this charity. The comforting words and memories the grandchildren shared today reflected the warmth, love and kindness Bill and Helen shared with so many of us. And Arch's gospel message was life affirming food for the sheep. I've been privileged to know Bill and Helen, Craig and Lynn. God bless you all as you look forward to the resurrection promise and the heavenly reunion. They are both missed here on earth.

Jean Colner Director Children's Dyslexia Center - August 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ It was a honor to know Bill Rutherford. He reached out to many families in his lifetime with dignity and helped them through their grief.

Heartfelt Sympathy to the Rutherford Family
Shirley Cheney Lambert
Park National Bank (retired)

Shirley Lambert - August 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Bill taught me a lot in the funeral business and considered him a mentor. My sympathy to all of the family and like you will remember him always.

Kim Maley - August 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ On behalf of the Cremation Association of North American (CANA) Board of Directors and staff, please accept our sincere condolences. Bill was a past president of CANA and respected leader in our profession. His many contributions will live on and he will be missed.

Barbara Kemmis - August 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

VM

“ From the Officers and members of the Valley of Columbus, Scottish Rite Masons, we offer our sincere condolences. Bill was a member of the Valley of Columbus for fifty-nine years and coroneted a 33rd Degree Mason in September, 2000, in Pittsburgh, PA. He served our Valley well and provided immeasurable support to our 32nd Degree Children's Dyslexia Learning Center. Bill will certainly be missed by many.

Valley of Columbus, Scottish Rite Masons - August 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GK

“ To Arch,Lynn and family,

It was truly good to see you earlier this afternoon and being able to express my sympathy to you.

Now your mom and dad are together in heaven.

Remember:

*God hath not promised
Skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
All our lives through;
God hath not promised
Sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.*

*But God hath promised
Strength for the day,
Rest for the labor,
Light for the way,
Grace for the trials,
Help from above,
Unfailing sympathy
Undying love.....*

Gary L. Kirkpatrick - August 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GD

“ We express our deepest condolences to the Rutherford Family during this trying time. Our late mentor, Don Gunder, always spoke highly of the time spent traveling with Mr. Rutherford.

The Staff at Gunder/Hall & Folk Funeral Directors

Gunder/Hall & Folk Funeral Directors - August 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ I met Mr. Rutherford when I cared for his wife at Select Specialty Hospital. I always looked forward to our meetings to discuss his wife's care. He was one of the most caring and interesting men I have ever met. Loved his wife endlessly. I have thought about him many times over the years. Some people are so memorable even though your meetings were short. Mr. Rutherford was one of those men. May he enjoy eternity with his loving wife.

Sandra k Haulter - August 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ Bill was nothing short of a GREAT MAN! He was what Masonry is all about and was a wonderful friend and mentor. I am comforted to know that Bill is now with the Supreme Architect of the Universe and while he will be missed, we will rejoice in the reunion when our tasks are complete.

Ralph Butts - August 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Bill's family. We enjoyed our conversations at National and Ohio Funeral Director gatherings.
- John, Past President OFDA

John W. Evans - August 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *Patty and I will keep the Rutherford family in our thoughts and prayers during these coming days. We will always hold both Bill and Helen in high regard as they mentored and guided us along life's path. They were great role models to us and we will be forever grateful.*

Dwayne & Patty Spence

Dwayne & Patty Spence - August 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ *I remember years ago Bill talking about his own funeral home and the motto "Let everything be done decently and in order" and how he applied that principle with serving cremation oriented families. He influenced my own funeral home operation and I will never forget that wisdom. We have lost a great one. My sympathy to his family.*

*Curtis Rostad
Executive Director
Indiana Funeral Directors Association*

Curtis Rostad - August 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ I would like to send my condolences to the family of Bill Rutherford.

Bill's father Perry Rutherford began the tradition of caring for my mother's family in death. Perry and my maternal grandmother were cousins and friends. Rutherford's has been our funeral home of choice for three generations.

Bill's legacy as a historian is what I will remember most about him. He and I were active in some of the same societies. Taking up where his mother Ruth left off, Bill was instrumental in documenting and preserving the local history of central Ohio, especially of Olde North Columbus. I have tried to follow in his footsteps.

God rest him peace.

Rev. John Gray, Grove City, OH

John Gray - August 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *The last time I spoke with Bill was at an NFDA Convention the year I was president of the Nebraska Funeral Directors Association. I introduced myself to him and told him that I was Erika's uncle. His face lit up and he talked for some time about Erika and Craig and how proud he was of both of them. Bill served funeral service with dignity, professionalism and honor and he will be missed by all of us in funeral service.*

John Rice - August 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire family. Mr. Bill was a true asset to funeral service and to his community. God Bless you all.

Bob & Beth Rosson - August 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ The entire Rutherford family is in my thoughts and prayers at this time. May God's comfort be with you all.

Thomas Smell - August 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ Mr. Rutherford has been a long time supporter of the Mason's Dyslexic Center. I was trained there as a teacher and remember both Mr. and Mrs. R. attending our Christmas dinners. It was usually a cold and miserable night but they always came. We knew they cared very deeply about children learning to read.

I am glad I was fortunate enough to know them .

Lynn Ann Kelly - August 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Our sincere condolences to the Rutherford family.

The Truxall Family - August 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM