



Roland H Thuleen

October 8, 2017

Thuleen, Roland H. peacefully left us on Sunday October 8, at 7:16 pm to be welcomed by his beloved wife Eileen in heaven, who waited 29 years to the day for them to be reunited. Preceded in death by his parents Albert & Ruth, his wife Eileen, sister Dorothy Storlie and nephew Jeffrey Storlie. Rolly is survived by his daughter Pamela Giebink, his sons Randy (Pam) Thuleen and Scott (Katy) Thuleen; his grandchildren: Peter (Monica), Brent (Jennifer), Katie, Riley, Shane, Zachary, Andrew (Allison) and Sarah along with his 6 great-grandchildren and niece Debbie (Dave) Wohleen. Rolly was the best dad, grandpa, father-in-law and friend ever. We will all cherish the countless memories that we have with him. Always willing to help in any way, always there to support each of us along the way. We are especially thankful to have celebrated Rolly's 100th birthday on July 21, 2017. Rolly was a shining example of leaders of The Great Generation who modestly led efforts to improve the greater Twin Cities and greater Minnesota community. Born into a humble family Rolly proved himself an Horatio Algiers example of success and giving back to the community. He started work as a page at what was First Bank Mpls, now US Bank and retired as Executive vice chairman 44 years later in 1979. He leveraged his Banking connections, while serving as President of United Cerebral Palsy for many years and was instrumental in the development of Able Net, UCP Minnesota, and Opportunity Workshop. Through his Banking relationship with Tonka Toys, they set up a painting operation in an old mansion in Minneapolis to paint some of the iconic Tonka toys. UCP Minnesota partnered with the SJ Groves family to host picnics for young adults with UCP and other disabilities on Groves Island (later renamed Gayle's Island) on Lake Minnetonka and encouraged family participation. Another Banking connection provided transportation to the island from the old Excelsior Amusement Park utilizing his collection of antique wood boats. Little did he know that his former leadership at UCP would help him lay a foundation of care and understanding for the birth of his grandson Zachary, who was born with Cerebral Palsy in 1989. Grandpa shared a very special relationship with Zachary. His recent tours of Opportunity Partners in Minnetonka gave him much delight and amazement as he recollected the early days of his involvement. Rolly was instrumental in financing of the construction on 35W in Minneapolis, bridges in Duluth providing better access to the North Shore, and the Eisenhower tunnel in Colorado. One of his proudest

achievements was his authoring a book on construction lending that was inducted into the Congressional Library in Washington, DC. He proudly touted his accomplishment of having been a link between First Bank of Mpls. and the Minnesota Sugar Beet Farmers in establishing a Sugar Beet Cooperative. He was a proud WCCO Good Neighbor. A YMCA officer for over 50 years, selling Christmas trees to send needy youth to camp as well as selling stools at the Minneapolis Aquatennial parade. Of course, family members were always encouraged to join in. Rolly's dad was a firefighter on a hook and ladder truck in Minneapolis, Fire Co. Number 4 and was killed in a tragic accident on Lake street when Rolly was 12 years old. He was recently honored as the oldest living child of a fallen firefighter at a wonderful ceremony in the Capitol park attended by Fire chiefs throughout the state, Governor Dayton, and families of fallen firefighters. A memorial of firepoles was erected in the park with inscribed names of all the fallen fire fighters since 1900. Funeral service will be at NOON, Saturday, Oct 14th at Lakewood Cemetery Chapel, 3600 Hennepin Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55408, with visitation at 11:30 am. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to: Opportunity Partners, Mtna, MN. Heartfelt Thanks to the hospice angels at the Glenn Hopkins and Park Nicollet. Washburn-McReavy.com Strobeck Johnson 952-938-9020

Events

OCT **Visitation** 11:30AM - 12:00PM

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Lakewood Chapel

3600 Hennepin Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN, US, 55408

OCT **Funeral Service** 12:00PM

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Lakewood Chapel

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