



Ralph Thomas Darling

November 14, 1939 - August 20, 2019

Darling, Ralph "Forever in our Hearts" Ralph was born on November 14, 1939 to James and Marjorie Darling. He grew up in northern Iowa in a beautiful farming community. After graduating from high school, Ralph enlisted in the United States Navy where he served for 4 years. He married the love of his life in Minneapolis and when their children were young, they moved to Blaine, MN. As a highly respected and successful business owner of Darling's Sales & Service Company, Ralph cultivated a long-standing reputation in the commercial laundry industry as a talented leader and knowledgeable sales & service specialist. He strived to be a mentor and friend to all who had the pleasure of working with him. Throughout his life, Ralph gave generously to everyone he met. He believed in a strong work ethic, building steadfast and loving relationships with family and friends, and living life to the fullest while encouraging others to do the same. Family gatherings at home, and spending time in his backyard oasis, were the words he used to describe his "happy place"! Ralph passed away peacefully on August 20, 2019. He was 79 years old. Ralph's family adored him and they are grateful for the blessings and love he poured into their lives. He is survived by his devoted and loving wife Nancy, 3 children, Debbie Darling, Shelley (and Joe) Wies, and Brad (and Dana) Darling, 7 grandchildren, Tyler (and Alyssa), Karli, Garrett, Riley, Vince, Olivia and Jamie, 1 great grandchild, Everett, 2 sisters-in-law, many nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends who loved him. He was preceded in death by his parents, and brothers, Ronald, Gerald and David.

Visitation at Washburn-McReavy - 1827 Coon Rapids Blvd from 5-8 pm on Wednesday, August 28, 2019, memorial service at 7 pm. Mass of Christian Burial at Epiphany Catholic Church - 11001 Hanson Blvd NW at 10:30 am on Thursday, August 29, 2019. Luncheon to follow. Washburn-McReavy.com
Coon Rapids Chapel 763-767-1000

Cemetery Details

Hillside Crematory

2610 19th Ave NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 29. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Church of the Epiphany (Coon Rapids)
11001 Hanson Boulevard Northwest
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 29. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Church of the Epiphany (Coon Rapids)
11001 Hanson Boulevard Northwest
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ralph Thomas Darling.*



August 27, 2019 at 12:51 PM



“ *Dave Perrotto - Ameri-Tech Industrial purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Ralph Thomas Darling.*



Dave Perrotto - Ameri-Tech Industrial - August 26, 2019 at 10:33 PM

MF

“ Ralph and I have been friends for almost 40 years. I have so many fond memories of Ralph that they are too numerous to list---the multiple times he told me he was going to retire and the multiple times we ended up both laughing at the end of the conversation--the unofficial Board Meetings in the back of the shop led by a prophet named "E&J", the planter he made me when I was young as a surprise that looks exactly like downtown "Mayberry" from the Andy Griffith days--etc, etc, etc....But my favorite was when we started our company and I was trying to lure quality people into our "camp" so to speak--we met in a "Kiosk" at the Mpls airport, and I was loaded with spec sheets, sales arguments and just about any evidence you could think of to convince him to buy our stuff---we were a new company and he was "THE" industry veteran. After our short "Hi how are you's", I went right into my sales pitch. 2 minutes into this he burst out laughing which shocked me--I asked "what's so funny Ralph and his reply was "Can we go get a drink, I had made my mind up before I came here so let's stop wasting time!"-- as relieved as I was he laughed in that Ralph "laugh" all the way to the bar!

Ralph was like a father to me for my entire career...but most important he was a very very close friend...I could always call when I needed to talk to someone and he would always answer...and after the conversation I always felt better.

Nancy and family, our deepest condolences. You are all in our prayers at this time of great loss.

*Mike Floyd
President
Girbau North America*

Mike Floyd - August 26, 2019 at 03:12 PM



“ *Love's Tapestry was purchased for the family of Ralph Thomas Darling.*



August 26, 2019 at 11:48 AM



“ *When my daughter went to the U of M, Ralph immediately offered his phone number in case she ever had an emergency while she was 5 hours from home. He always put others first. His kindness and concern to see others comfortable was unforgettable. He nicknamed me Shaky. 20 years later a small circle of people call me Shaky because of Ralph. Our birthdays were just a few days apart and we would often call each other to check in. Over my 25 years in the laundry industry and thousands of acquaintances, never did I feel closer to a customer than Ralph. Ralph brought people in and made you feel more important than anyone on earth when you were with him. One thing that sticks in my mind, he treated his family with respect when I was in the office. Being with family 24 hours a day is not easy. But Ralph and Nancy made it look easy. In fact Brad and Joe and Shelley all made it look easy. Today there is a piece of me that hurts knowing I will never talk to Ralph again.*

Nancy and family, you have been so blessed to have Ralph in your lives! I pray the sorrow you feel today eases with each passing day. But I know that sorrow will always be with you because Ralph was so special.

Kim Shady

Kim Shady - August 26, 2019 at 10:55 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ralph Thomas Darling.* ”



August 26, 2019 at 09:44 AM