



Roger Winton Pottlitzer

May 12, 1944 - June 11, 2020

Roger Winton Pottlitzer, of Louisville, KY passed away on June 11, 2020, after a twenty-year battle with cancer. Roger was born on May 12, 1944 in Louisville, KY to Mortimer and Margaret Pottlitzer. He was a 1962 graduate of St. Xavier High School. While in high school, he met the love of his life Sherry, whom he married on July 10, 1965. After a short stint at Western Kentucky University, he sailed down to the Navy Office and enlisted in the United States Navy Reserve. While in the Navy, he was stationed on the USS Vulcan. After serving on the high seas, Roger pursued his journey into the fire protection industry, where eventually, in 1984, he founded Vulcan Fire Systems, Inc. He continued to build his business with his wife and son, Todd, by his side, while his other son, Jay, the “Leisure Boy”, continued on the high seas, enjoying the vacation life in Palm Beach, FL.

Roger was a member of St. Bernard Catholic Church. He served on many boards, in various capacities, including serving on the board of the Kentucky Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association, the Builder’s Exchange of Louisville, and the Audubon Country Club. He was a charter member of the Watterson City Optimist Club, where he coached youth basketball for many years. He also was also the first, and only, inductee into the St. X Red Zone Hall of Fame.

Roger’s favorite place to be, was on the golf course. Roger enjoyed playing golf with his close friends where, it became true, what happened on the golf course, stayed on the golf course. Sherry always said Roger’s favorite things were golf, treasured friendships, and her, in that order, but everyone knows that Sherry was number 1; although golf, with his buddies, was surely a close second.

One of Roger’s greatest, and longest lasting traits, was bringing people together. He was a connector, always looking to create life-long personal and business relationships. Countless people looked to Roger as a resource of knowledge and leadership.

He is preceded in death by his parents. In addition to his wife of 54 years, Sherry, he is survived by his brother, Spencer, and sister in law, Barbara, of Houston, Texas; sons: Jay

(Diane) of Palm Beach, FL and Todd (Lindsay) of Louisville, KY; 4 loving grandchildren: Tyler, Justin, Lilly and Logan; nieces: Lynn (Tim Johnston, Kara (Scott) Flathouse, and Kim (Martin) Juul; nephew: Glenn (Vickie) Gaines; and many cousins. He also leaves behind a long list of golf friends and acquaintances, Vulcan staff, and the St. X Red Zone.

He will be dearly missed by many (including himself), but he leaves a lasting impression by all who knew him.

The family will hold a private memorial service. A Celebration of Life, with all who loved him, will be held at a later date.

The family would also like to sincerely thank all of Roger's doctors throughout the years, the staff of Norton Cancer Institute, and especially the loving care and support from Hosparus of Louisville.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to either Hosparus of Louisville <https://hosparushealth.org/donate/>, or Cincinnati Children's Hospital <https://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/giving/gifts>.

To leave condolences for the family, visit www.ratterman.com.

Comments



“ Sherry, Dicky & I just learned about your terrible loss. My heart aches for you! All our thoughts, love and prayers are with you, your sons and all your and Rogers family. So very sorry we never got to share time with Roger or know him. He had to be a great guy, because he won your love. Treasure all the memories, rejoice in knowing you shared a long, loving life together. Always enjoyed are special talks and friendship through the years. If you ever need to talk, I'm always here, we love you!
Joyce & Dick Blandford

Joyce Blandford - July 09 at 08:57 AM



“ Todd, I tried to call you today, and share a lasting memory of your parents. But will call sometime next week.
My name is Jim Barrett, my wife is Debbie Barrett. So let's flashback to September 19, 2017, the place Mackinac Island, Grand Hotel, having dinner in the huge dining room. Debbie and I were seated at a table next to this couple. It took a few minutes, and your Dad and I made eye contact. Within about 30 seconds, your Dad says, "Sherry and I are here celebrating our 52nd wedding anniversary". I immediately said " We got married today" Your Dad stood up gave me the firmest hand shake and to biggest bear hug, I have ever got. This always brings tears to Debbie's and my eyes. Your Mom and Dad were so happy for us. We planned to see each other for breakfast the next day. That morning they were able to meet the pastor.
Debbie and I have talked to your Mom a few times since, The Grand Hotel. We were getting updates on your Dad and I think your son. Debbie and I are so sad for your loss Todd. I love this picture of your Dad, above 'Share a Memory', I keep looking over at it.
We will give your Mom a call soon. Condolences to all who loved, your Dad.
Love always, Debbie and Jim

Jim & Debbie Barrett - July 03 at 05:45 PM



“ So sorry for your loss Sherry and family. I was privileged to bring Holy Communion to you and Roger. I witnessed Roger's true Catholic faith. What wonderful neighbors and friends we have become and shared some great stories. We will miss Roger but know he is in peace. We remain your neighbors and friends Sherry. Love and prayers to all.

Nancy and Tom Verrill

Nancy C Verrill - June 18 at 04:24 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family.

Barbie and Al Horton

Al Horton - June 18 at 01:48 PM



“ Dear Pottlitzers, I worked the Halfway house at Audubon cc. Mr. Pottlitzer and Mr. Don Meyer were permanent fixtures on the golf course. Roger had a great sense of humor. He loved to wear veteran ball caps and would often supply them to the other three guys. He loved reading books from the Halfway house library. He cared deeply about his family.

Bill Daisey

William Daisey - June 17 at 03:13 PM



“ Sherry,
Don Metzger here. I just saw Roger's obituary. I didn't see it originally. So sorry for your loss. I'll always the fun times I had when Roger and I coached St Gabriel's 8th grade basketball team. Please let me know when the Celebration of Life happens. I would really like to come to that.

God bless your family.

Don

Don Metzger - June 16 at 11:22 AM



“ Our sincerest condolences, Jonathan, Shawna, Anna Paige & Macy Edwards.



Jonathan Edwards - June 16 at 06:21 AM



“ What an absolutely wonderful human being! You will be so missed Roger! Much love to the Pottlitzer family!

april Fiel - June 15 at 06:56 PM



“ Dear Sherry, Jay, Todd and family,
I am so sorry and sad for all of you for your loss. Our families had such fun together when our children were young and growing up. Roger was a very likeable and good person with a great smile. We are grieving for all of you and you have our deepest sympathy. Please know we care so much. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you during this difficult time. God Bless all of you.
Love, Fay, Steve, Mary Beth

Fay Hoffmann - June 15 at 03:47 PM



“ Naturally I met Roger on a golf course. One day my new neighbor Perry Carney asked me if I'd like to play a round with his group which included Roger and Bill Bell. I did and that resulted into an ongoing ritual for several years and on many golf courses.

We'd start the week by trying to figure out how we could squeeze some work and honey-do chores in between golf. Perry soon realized that he needed to work for a living but the three of us certainly had our priorities straight, so we picked up a like-minded fourth.

Roger and I were always partners (though it's hard to believe that we usually lost) and Bill had three or four ringers that he'd bring depending who had the hot hand that week. Roger's wit and humor was.....well there are no words that could've captured his spontaneous master pieces. None.

I am truly sorry to learn of Roger's battle with cancer and now his passing. He was indeed one of the nicest guys you could ever hope to meet. His sweet wife Sherry always kept him grounded that way. Those years were some of the best times of my life. I just wish I could have kept up better but I am certainly lucky to have been a part of those times.

Mike Muth

Mike Muth - June 15 at 02:19 PM



“ We are deeply sadden to hear the news of Rogers passing. May the Lord comfort you Sherry, & family during this time of loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

David & Jada Yocum



David Yocum - June 15 at 10:16 AM



“ You don't know me ... the name is John Mattingly and my wife, Joyce, and I were long time members of Audubon Country Club. I had the privilege of knowing Roger and played golf with him multiple times. I considered him a friend and always admired his way of reaching out to other members. We send you our prayers and peace-giving energy during this difficult time.

John and Joyce Mattingly - June 15 at 09:41 AM



“ Pottlitzer Family, It is with heavy heart leaving this message. Roger it was a pleasure servicing with you on Builders Exchange and I always loved when we could wave hi working on the same street. I was so fortunate to play some golf with you. Thanks for your compassion and mentorship throughout the years. You will be deeply missed. Todd, Sherry Julie and I will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

James Strange - June 15 at 08:48 AM



“ I also had the pleasure to serve on the Builders Exchange Board with Roger. He was truly a mentor & someone I had the utmost respect for. I also was fortunate to play golf with Roger. He was truly a nice person, and will be missed. Betty & I extend our deepest sympathy to Sherry, Todd and family.

Mike Steilberg - June 17 at 10:55 PM



“ I am very sad to hear of Rogers passing. I always considered Roger a good friend and great business associate. I set Roger up as a Fike distributor right at the beginning of Vulcan Fire they were one of the best distributors I had. May his soul be in the arms of Jesus until we all meet again. Sleep well dear friend.
Tom Schultz

Tom Schultz - June 14 at 10:39 PM



“ Sherry you probably don't remember me but I worked in the office of National Linen Service (Louisville Linen) with you. My husband was in a swimming accident in 1964 and was paralyzed for 50 years. He passed away in October of 2014. So sad to read about your husband's long battle with cancer. Praying the Lord will hold you especially close and comfort you during this trying time.

Janice Adams

Janice Adams - June 14 at 06:26 PM



“ Dan Wernery lit a candle in memory of Roger Winton Pottlitzer



Dan Wernery - June 14 at 05:58 PM



“ Rest In Peace, my friend!

Dan Wernery - June 14 at 05:59 PM



“ Roger was one of a kind man. Always had a way to make people laugh. Our Thursday lunches will be missed with Roger, John, Todd and I. I'm sure him and John are up there giving each other hard time like they always did. He was a great friend and mentor. He will always hold a special place in my heart. Prayers to Sherry, Todd, Jay and family.

Mike Bogard - June 14 at 03:59 PM



“ Roger Pottlitzer was a great basketball coach and a better man. He led our basketball teams to two city titles in 1978 and 1982. I believe I can speak for all of his former players and say that this is sad news and prayers go out to Sherry, Todd, and Jay. I also had the opportunity to play golf with him several times and enjoyed it a lot growing up. His brand of humor was one-of-a-kind.

William J Bell - June 14 at 11:41 AM



“ Sherry, my heart is breaking for you. I never met Roger, but felt like I knew him a little through our talks of both his and my Ernie's illness. I hope they meet up with each other and get a good foursome going:)

I look forward to seeing you, and to hell with social distancing. I want to give you a huge hug, and have a good cry together. Today I am sending you a virtual hug and much love. I'm glad you have family and close friends to help you in this really difficult time.

Much
Donna

Donna Osif - June 14 at 10:27 AM



“ I had the privilege of knowing Roger for a short period of life on the golf course and in business. Truly a fine gentleman who never had a negative word for another person. He will be missed. God bless you all.

Dave Shedd

dave shedd - June 14 at 10:11 AM



“ Sherry, Todd, Jay: what a man and what a family. Obit really nails it, when talking about bringing people together. Trips, golfing, and just being in the KFSCA meetings with Roger we're always a treat. He and a few others in the fire protection fraternity were always telling about the history of fire protection in this area, and maybe a couple of other stories.....

He was one of my main mentors in the industry and in life in general. Nancy and I will truly miss him. Love you all and God Bless. Nancy and Sam Alvey

Nancy and Sam Alvey - June 13 at 07:02 PM



“ Passy, rest easy. Now that you are on the great golf courses above continue hitting them long and straight. Save me a place to play with you again.

Your Golf Partner.

Donald Meyer - June 13 at 05:02 PM