



Mr. Ralph Clair Graefer

July 2, 1941 - December 28, 2020

Ralph Graefer of High River, Alberta passed away peacefully on December 28, 2020 at the High River Hospital, at the age of 79 years with family at his side. A charismatic man has left our lives but not our hearts. Ralph is survived by his wife of 57 years; Lucille; daughter Carolyn, grandsons, Jordan, Nathan (Dominique); great-granddaughter Everly; brothers Steven (Pamela), Gerald (Joan); brothers-in-law, Irvin (Elizabeth), Ivan; sister-in-law Yvonne (Jim) and many nieces and nephews. Ralph was predeceased by his son Wayne, and parents Adolph and Edna.

Ralph was born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan and remained a true Roughrider's fan. He enjoyed camping, fishing, a good round of golf and most of all gatherings with family and friends where he could tell stories and express his political views.

Ralph was a 55 year lifetime member of UA of Plumbers and Pipefitters, Local 496.

Ralph you have left us with a lot of memories to keep in our hearts.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Ogoke and the palliative care team at the High River Hospital for all their support and attentiveness.

Memorial Donations may be made to the High River District Health Care Foundation, 560-9th Ave. SW, High River, Alberta T1V 1B3, <http://www.highriverhealthfoundation.ca>.

Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (Craig Snodgrass) 403.652.4242.

Ralph's Message:

I want to thank family and friends here today to celebrate my life, and what a life I have had. As some people know I have often said I've had the greatest life of anybody I know.

I met and married Lucille the most beautiful girl I have ever seen. She became my best friend and then my angel. We had 2 beautiful children, Carolyn and Wayne.

I want to thank my daughter Carolyn for just being Carolyn. The way she lit up a room when she came in, how proud I was watching her move up in her career and all the accomplishments she achieved with her Company.

I enjoyed watching my two Grandsons Jordan and Nathan grow up. I had so many laughs with them two boys I could write a book. They grew up to be two fine young men. Nathan married Dominique who became my Granddaughter and blessed us with a Great Granddaughter, Everly. I am so very proud of them.

I want to thank my brother Steve and Pamela, Janice and Denise for all the fun times we had, family dinners, travelling on vacations, golf games and the laughs playing games with all the kids in Steve's backyard I want to thank my brother Gerald and Joan, Terry and Brian for the many, many laugh filled miles we travelled, hunting and fishing and golf games with the boys.

I remember the great times with Lucille's side of the family. Reunions with Mike and Elizabeth, Laura, Victoria, and Natalie, the holidays with them here and in Halifax, the family visits with Jim and Yvonne, Jess and Jeremy, lunches and family dinners with Ivan.

I look back with very fond memories with neighbors who became friends in Dover and Rundle, the fun bunch of Canadians and Americans we met in Yuma thru our many winters being snowbirds. I so enjoyed the happy hours and get togethers in Polo Park. I appreciate the help and support they have given me.

I thank my brothers and sisters of Local 496 with whom I worked with over the years. What an amazing group of people.

To my family and friends don't mourn for me as you see now, I had the greatest life of any one I have ever met.

Goodbye and God bless you, one and all

Ralph

A Message from Carolyn

My Dad will always be remembered for his quick wit, sense of humour and the laughs he brought to any social event. And what a story teller he was.

My fondest memories growing up as a little girl with my Dad were date nights with my Mom. I would watch my Mom put her make-up on and Dad would pour himself a rye and go to the piano and play his favorite song, Blueberry Hill.

As I became a young woman it was my Dad who gave me the confidence that I can do anything. He would always say to me "You have the world by the Balls kid, take it"

One of my favorite activities, which has given me many smiles and laughs with my Dad is fly fishing, how I used to love watching my Dad cast his rod and I swear, him and I would have to walk where no man has gone before to get to the best hole.

My Dad was my best friend, my mentor and he will always be my Hero.

Give Wayne a big hug from me.

I love you Dad and Thank You for the way you loved my Mom

Comments



“ Good Afternoon Ralph

It has been Six Months since you've been gone today & Yes What a Wonderful World.

RG you know me i still think about you!! That devilish Smile & Grin you had, we miss & love you.....

The most Memorable Memory I have of you is the Respect & Love You had for Edna, you were Truly Blessed to have her for your Mother. All the fun times we had with her in Moose Jaw, too many to mention, I need to write a book. Edna believed in the ever after, so be very careful with your drinks & playing poker.

If the Good Lord is a Willing & the Creek don't Rise....we will see you someday at half past five!!

Love you More

Patsy & Freddie

pat & fred lockhart - June 28 at 04:52 PM



“ Dear Lucille,

Although our bodies may give out...our love and cherished memories will always remain. I wish you peace and comfort as you grieve Lucille and I offer my deepest condolences for your loss. To a life well Lived!



Louise Murray - January 15 at 01:38 PM



“ Dear Lucille ,
I have many warm memories of you and Ralph coming to Moose Jaw and visiting with my Mom , Carolyn Wood. She was always grateful for your visits and looked forward to them, especially as she got on in years .
Deepest condolences to you Lucille and to your daughter Carolyn and to all the Graefer family . R.I.P. Ralph .
Love and hugs , Melanie and Roman Churko (and all the Wood family)

Melanie Churko (nee Wood) - January 06 at 02:14 PM



“ Ralph you will be very missed,

You are a very special person to my family

I have so many memories of Ralph & Lucy as well as there daughter and grandkids. Ralph was always the light of the room. He made me laugh and smile always. I remember at Halloween he would give me the big chocolate bar when I went to his door down the street from my grandparents Fred & Pat Lockhart house in Rundle. Ralph was always telling jokes.
I remember visiting his mom Edna with my grandparents and them playing cards always.

May the angels watch over you now on this next journey,

Until we meet again,
Love Kayleigh Lockhart

Kayleigh Lockhart - January 04 at 04:24 PM



“ Met Ralph in Yuma...Always the life of our Happy Hours and golf..It was a pleasure to know him...R.I.P. Ralph.....Jackie & Emil Paries

Emil Paries - January 04 at 08:33 AM



“ I have so many memories of Ralph, whom I considered my 2nd dad. I remember meeting the Graefers in Dover when we moved in next door to them, I was 8 and quite shy, and didn't know what to think of Ralph. He was big and loud, but always smiling and joking. Our families became quick friends and spent alot of time together, from weekend camping trips in Carlsland to parties at their house or ours, our parents drove us kids nuts. Ralph was quick to give his time to us kids, playing between the 2 front yards or taking us on day trips in his truck, that usually ended at DQ. Ralph loved to tease me, as I would always turn red and he would laugh and throw his arms around me and say, "Just kidding". My favourite memory is when our families travelled through BC for 3 weeks. I think Carolyn, Wayne and I drove our parents nuts, sneaking out at night, but Ralph and Fred always caught us. Ralph would take us kids waterskiing whenever we asked and at night he would tell stories around the fire. Later in years, my husband and I, and our daughters would go to High River to attend the rodeos with Ralph and Lucy and eventually end up at their house for dinner. What stories Ralph had for my girls and Ron, as he held all my childhood secrets. Well, my dear Ralph, you are on your next journey in life, I will miss you and Love You always.....until we meet again,
Love your little Donald

Dawn Asham - January 02 at 04:53 PM



Ralph Claire Graefer

What can we say that has not already been said

It took a few years a few beers before you told us your second name

So here goes!!

We had the privilege of living next door to you in Dover, then being friends up to the end

You were the best neighbour ever, you were always there for us. We had many beers in your back yard with many favourable stories.

So many memories of us spending nites in your front room listening to Dusty Springfield, Barbra Streisand, Willy Nelson, Neil Diamond, Rita McNeil & many more artists. We drove the kids nuts

So many memories of our camping trips drinking cold beer & lots of corn on the cob, we drove the kids nuts

So many trips to Hawaii were unforgettable, like you befriended a one legged pigeon, or playing Horseshoes with a gang from New Jersey without having to buy a single drink!!

Ralph you were charismatic, talented & the best sense of Humour ever

Ralph you heard Seven Spanish Angels on the radio went downstairs & played it for us on the piano by ear, you were a genius when it came to the piano

To have to put all the things we went thru together would take a book.

These are Memories we will always cherish. Ralph was the coolest guy we knew.

Lucille was a perfect fit as she always kept him reined in SOMETIMES!!

There comes a time when a Kiss is not Enough

Our Dearest Ralph & yes you were right, you did go First

Say Hello to Frip, Edna & Wayne for us, Enjoy your Journey Up amongst the Stars

We Miss You, we will think of you often, & a smile will come to our faces

God Bless you Old Timer (Buddy)

Thanks for the Memories

Fred & Pat

pat lockhart - January 01 at 09:08 PM



Barb Andersen lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Clair Graefer



Barb Andersen - January 01 at 03:06 AM



“ We did many trips with Ralph and Lucille - Penticton, Hawaii, Yuma, Nevada. Our first holiday together was a cabin at Buffalo Lake where the fish flies covered the windows at night and breakfast was cooked on a BBQ. On our first trip to Yuma, we missed a turnoff and ended up staying in a campground that looked very nice. The campground had a horseshoe tournament and although we had never played before, Ralph, a pro at horseshoes (as he claimed) entered us in the tournament. We ended up WINNING!!! And suddenly became very unpopular as we were the only Canadians. The trophy sat on the table, but was never given to us. We celebrated on our own and had a lot of laughs about it.
We will sure miss the fun times we've had together.

Steve and Pam with love

Denise Deck - December 31, 2020 at 06:20 PM



“ What a musician Ralph was!! He could play that piano like nobody's business! I always marvelled at how well he played, all by ear - it was amazing. Although I have many fond memories of uncle Ralph, one of my favourite was listening to him play until the wee hours of the morning, and in particular, Rod Stewart .. “oh the rhythm of my heart is beating like a drum, with the words I love you rolling off my tongue .. Never will I roam, for a know my place is home.. where the ocean meets the sky, I'll be sailing .. “ His love of Rita McNeil made him an honorary maritimer. Lucille and Carolyn, my heart breaks for you.. I will love and miss him dearly xx - Love your niece Victoria

Victoria Murray - December 31, 2020 at 05:26 PM



“ I will always remember Ralph's cooking when we visited. “The meals were always the best”. He even would give me the recipes and the last one were his biscuits which I make quite often.
He was always cheerful, happy and lots of fun and loved to tease me, which made it so enjoyable to visit.
He will always be in our hearts.



Elizabeth Murray - December 31, 2020 at 03:46 PM



“ To the Graefer family
May it comfort you to know that our sympathy and caring thoughts are with you. Our families shared many fond memories growing up. We would visit them in Moose Jaw during the holidays and enjoy a great time. They would then come to our farm and learn all about farm life. Many fond memories.

Lois and Lionel Longmore

Lois Longmore - December 31, 2020 at 03:38 PM



“ My condolences to your family from one of your Polo Park friends.

Elinor Miller - December 31, 2020 at 03:37 PM



“ I have known Ralph for many years having grown up in Moose Jaw. My first memory was when Ralph and Gerald convinced me to walk across the river with them. They got me half way across and left me on a wooden barge half way and left, laughing. I was scared stiff and could not move, finally Big Brother Steven came to the rescue and walked me back to dry land. Another memory was back in grade 6 at Victoria School where Ralph and Gerald approached me at my desk asking if I had gotten my hair wet that morning. Dumb me said NO and the come back was Did you pee through a straw and they left laughing along with the rest of class and me red faced! Over the years you lose contact with people, but the Graefers and the Croziers ended up meeting once again in Calgary where we enjoyed many a social occasion. Along the way Ralph met Lucy and it is obvious she has a positive effect on him. He never lost his sense of humor or his smile, but some of his antics did change. As the years go by contacts and relationships get left behind, but we still remember our friends. God Bless you Ralph and try to behave in Heaven!
Irene

Irene Crozier - December 31, 2020 at 01:09 PM



“ I remember Ralph first as my customer, then as a friend along with Lucille. I cherish my memories. I will miss his smile and his positive energy.

Linda Hiller - December 30, 2020 at 09:21 PM



“ Oh my gosh I'm going to miss this handsome man. Uncle Ralph you have always made me feel special in your eyes. From the time you and dad started tossing me over the clothes line at mere months old to helping buy my first baseball glove, to the karates chops I would hit you with. That one was a close one, I got tougher than you thought. You and dad always taught us girls to be as tough as the boys, and we did. I remember the days of all of us cousins playing in the backyard and you and dad would place bets between us girls against the boys to see who could pin the other down. The winner would get a quarter. You would laugh so hard when the girls won. Thank you for all the great memories. I'm so happy we got to spend a bit of time out at our trailer this summer to walk down memory lane again.
You will be in my heart forever.
Enjoy the great company you are with now, try to stay out of trouble.
Love you Uncle Ralph
Janice

Janice Graefer Schultz-Neice - December 30, 2020 at 07:51 PM



“ Uncle Ralph was the most charismatic man I have ever known. His gift for story telling and the inevitable laughs it brought will be his legacy. He will be missed by so many but everyone that knew him holds a memory that will always bring a smile or chuckle.
This is my favorite picture of my uncle and my dad. Always a good time on the golf course. Love you Uncle Ralph. I'm sure there are some epic reunions happening now!



Denise - December 30, 2020 at 07:45 PM



“ Ralph my long time friend and work mate. We will miss your great laughs and great stories especially the peatatoe joke you pulled off on me. God bless you Ralph you will always remain in our thoughts. Dougie & Anita Halbert

Doug/Anita Halbert - December 30, 2020 at 04:30 PM



“

Lucille - December 30, 2020 at 05:41 PM



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Oh my gosh I'm going to miss this handsome man. Nice Ralph you have always made me feel special in your eyes. From the time you and dad started tossing me over the clothes line at mere months old to helping buy my first baseball glove, to the karates chops I would hit you with. That one was a close one, I got tougher than you thought. You and dad always taught us girls to be as tough as the boys, and we did. I remember the days of all of us cousins playing in the backyard and you and dad would place bets between us girls against the boys to see who could pin the other down. The winner would get a quarter. You would laugh so hard when the girls won. Thank you for all the great memories. I'm so happy we got to spend a bit of time out at our trailer this summer to walk down memory lane again. You will be in my heart forever.

Enjoy the great company you are with now, try to stay out of trouble.

Love you Uncle Ralph

Janice

Janice Graefer Schultz- Neice - December 30, 2020 at 07:16 PM



“ Some of my fondest memories were spent with Ralph. We had lots of laughs and drank lots of beer over the years. My condolences to his family - I will miss him a lot.

Marvin Levesque

Marvin Levesque - December 30, 2020 at 04:30 PM



“

I met Ralph 40 years ago on a job with Plumber and Pipefitters Local 496. There are so many stories I could tell about the times we worked and spent together as friends in the Graefer family! We are going to miss having a cold beer and a few laughs together!

We will meet again! Thinking of the Graefer family at this time.

Ken and Karin Keller

Ken and Karin Keller - December 30, 2020 at 07:50 PM



“ I have to say, I had the greatest privilege to call Ralph my Brother in Law, best friend, and mentor. He was always there when I needed him for advise in the art of growing up and he never led me astray. He will always be in my heart and thoughts and will be truly missed by all us here out on the East Coast.

Rest In Peace Big Guy.



Irvin Mike Murray - December 30, 2020 at 04:08 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Carolyn - December 30, 2020 at 02:22 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Carolyn - December 30, 2020 at 02:18 PM



“ My Dad's First Selfie

Carolyn - December 30, 2020 at 02:19 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Carolyn - December 30, 2020 at 12:33 PM



“ My Dad's favourite Restaurant Luigis in Lethbridge

Carolyn - December 30, 2020 at 12:34 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lucille Ann Graefer - December 29, 2020 at 08:29 PM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Lucille - December 29, 2020 at 07:07 PM



“ A Message from Carolyn:

My Dad will always be remembered for his quick wit, sense of humour and the laughs he brought to any social event. And what a story teller he was.

My fondest memories growing up as a little girl with my Dad were date nights with my Mom. I would watch my Mom put her make-up on and Dad would pour himself a rye and go to the piano and play his favorite song, Blueberry Hill.

As I became a young woman it was my Dad who gave me the confidence that I can do anything. He would always say to me “You have the world by the Balls kid, take it”

One of my favorite activities, which has given me many smiles and laughs with my Dad is fly fishing, how I used to love watching my Dad cast his rod and I swear, him and I would have to walk where no man has gone before to get to the best hole.

My Dad was my best friend, my mentor and he will always be my Hero.

Give Wayne a big hug from me.

I love you Dad and Thank You for the way you loved my Mom

Carolyn - December 29, 2020 at 07:04 PM