



Raymond J. Simonek

November 9, 1930 - March 30, 2020

Raymond John Simonek, 89, of Aurora, Illinois passed away Monday, March 30, 2020. He was born November 9, 1930 in Chicago, Illinois.

On January 7, 2020, Ray lost his devoted and loving wife of 64 years, Dolores (Partyka) Simonek. Ray is survived by his four children, Donna (Christopher) Mangold, Terese (Hugo) Gravenhorst, Karen (Richard) Karas, and Richard (Julie Ryan) Simonek; grandchildren Abigail (Ian) Gravenhorst Strug, Meredith (Ryan) Mangold Gildersleeve, Eleanor Gravenhorst, Ricky Karas, and Phillip Karas; his sister Aggie (Warren) Frolik; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Mary (Chrastil) Simonek, and seven of his siblings, Irene, Evelyn, Dorothy, Florence, Charles, Mary Jane and Monica, and his beloved Dolores' parents Stanley and Stella Partyka, and her brothers Richard and Gerald.

Ray proudly served his country in the United States Army in post-war Germany, followed by a long career in accounting and finance in private industry, local government and nonprofit organizations. He was active in the National Association of Accountants, serving as the Fox River Valley chapter president and a national director.

Ray was a gifted singer with a tenor's voice. He began singing in grade school and continued singing well into his eighties as a cantor with Our of Lady of

Mercy church, where Ray and Dolores were founding members.

After retiring as Director of Finance from the Kane County Regional Office of Education, Ray was home for two months and decided that retirement was not for him. He continued working part-time in the field of accounting for another twelve years, and officially retired in 2010 at the age of 80. Ray was a people person and wanted to share his knowledge and experiences with others, so a few months after “retiring,” he became a volunteer tutor at the adult literacy and reading program at Waubensee Community College, where he taught writing skills to English as a Second Language students.

Ray and Dolores moved to Fox Knoll Assisted Living in Aurora in 2016, where Ray organized and led a lively current events discussion for residents and was an enthusiastic member of the community’s sports teams.

Ray’s family wishes that they could have given him the great send-off that he deserved, but that is not possible with the current pandemic. We encourage family and friends to visit Daleiden’s interactive website at www.daleidenmortuary.com where you may sign the guest book and leave condolences for Ray’s family. Ray will be interred at Risen Lord Cemetery in Oswego, Illinois.

Memorial contributions in Ray’s name may be made to the Rush-Copley Cancer Center at <https://www.rushcopley.com/giving/gift/>. Please indicate that the gift is in memory of Raymond Simonek, and designate the Cancer Center in the drop down.

Previous Events

Private Burial

APR 3 (CT)

Risen Lord Cemetery
1501 Simons Road
Oswego, IL

Private services

APR 3 (CT)

Daleiden Mortuary
220 N. Lake Street
Aurora, IL 60506
(630) 631-5500
daleidenmortuary@gmail.com
<https://www.daleidenmortuary.com>

Private Visitation

APR 3 (CT)

Daleiden Mortuary
220 N. Lake Street
Aurora, IL 60506
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Tribute Wall



“ Daleiden Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Raymond J. Simonek



Daleiden Mortuary - November 01, 2021 at 11:54 AM



“ 49 files added to the album Life Tributes



Daleiden Mortuary - November 01, 2021 at 11:54 AM

MR

“ Dear Donna, Terry, Karen, and Rick, ~

Sending all of you my heartfelt condolences on the passing this year of both your mom and dad. I have many happy memories of both of them...Dinner at your house in Aurora... your mom made egg drop soup. Your dad singing Ava Maria so beautifully at Karen & Rick's wedding, and his quick wit. As I recall the priest was young and rather handsome. A fact so obvious to us younger guests that Ray jokingly and by no means meant any disrespect referred to him as Fr. "what a waste"... yes many happy memories indeed. May the memories you share sustain and comfort you as time goes by.

Love and prayers, Maureen

Maureen Ryan - April 29, 2020 at 05:43 PM

VF

“ *I knew all three Simonek sisters at Barat College. We all talked about our parents and siblings, and were pleased whenever it was possible to meet them in person. I remember meeting Mr. and Mrs. Simonek; I don't know that they got to say much, since we were a pretty lively group of friends!*

I send my sincere condolences to Donna, Terry, Karen, Rick and their families. To lose these wonderful parents in these short few months of 2020, and not be able to celebrate Mr. Simonek's life in our customary practice is not easy. Please know that your friends are thinking of you and that God will send comfort.

Ginny Fitzgerald

Virginia Fitzgerald - April 13, 2020 at 12:30 PM

EG

“ Video from Friday’s service. While we are sad we were unable to give Ray the proper sendoff he deserved, we had to comply with local rules and regulations. Please enjoy the video we compiled in lieu of attending the service.

Ellie Gravenhorst - April 06, 2020 at 02:40 PM

CK

“ Ray and Dolores were such a sweet, sweet, caring couple. I have known them for years since I worked with Dolores at Met. Since the 70's. It was a delight to have known them and I feel like I somewhat know their kids as they shared their treasured moments throughout the years. I will ALWAYS have wonderful memories of them. Their love for each other has always been so strong and now, they are together again. Blessings to all of their family.
Always in my heart ,
Cindy Kepka

Cindy Kepka - April 06, 2020 at 09:43 AM

SP

“ Uncle Ray and Aunt Dolores were very special to us. We treasured our time with both of them. When my mom and dad passed away, our relationship with them became even more special. I loved how they would share stories about my parents and they looked out for us. We enjoyed visiting with them and we always brought them lots of Fannie May candy. I'm not sure if he was more excited to see us or the candy :) They were both such a loving and thoughtful couple. I'm glad they are united with my parents and watching over us from heaven. We love you very much and you will be missed.

Love,
Sandy, Bill, and Jenna

Sandy Petschow - April 05, 2020 at 04:56 PM

KK

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Karen Simonek Karas - April 04, 2020 at 07:47 PM

EN

“ Elizabeth Nees lit a candle in memory of Raymond J. Simonek



Elizabeth Nees - April 04, 2020 at 07:26 PM

EN

“ I met Uncle Ray when I was about 4 years old. I liked him so much right off the bat, I told My mom (his sister Evelyn) she should marry him. She said she couldn't do that, since she was already married to my father. I still thought it was a great idea.

I remember Uncle Ray as being funny and sweet and very kind. I didn't see him again until 2006 when he and Dolores came out to California to attend my mom's memorial service. I said "Uncle Ray, is that YOU?" I was so happy to see him! My mom was also 89 when she died. She and Uncle Ray were close: he was her favorite of all her brothers and sisters. He was certainly my favorite uncle.

Elizabeth Nees

Elizabeth Nees - April 04, 2020 at 07:24 PM

FR

“ I can imagine Ray joining Dolores now in the kingdom with my own parents, with whom they shared much during their time at Fox Knoll. My other memories include Ray coming to Marmion to pick up a son they were proud of as they wanted to provide him with the best education they could. And how I looked forward to meeting both Ray and Dolores in the narthex at Our Lady of Mercy after Mass where their faith and their loving banter were so freely shared. Requiescat in pace!

Fr. Joel of Marmion Abbey

Fr. - April 04, 2020 at 08:50 AM

SD

“ I am so sad to hear of Ray's passing. I was lucky enough to meet him at social gatherings. I worked with Dolores at MetLife and always enjoyed visiting with him at Mets family get togethers. He was such a fun man and the two of them together were so precious. Dolores was such a good friend and our friendship continued after we left Met. May they both Rest In Peace.
Shirley David

shirley david - April 03, 2020 at 07:19 PM

CG

“ Ray and Dolores were one of the early parishioners at OLM. I knew them both well from church and in the community. They were a very special couple. I can only smile when I think off them together and laugh at all the jokes Ray shared. There is comfort knowing they are once again together with our heavenly Father. Rest in peace Ray and Dolores. You will be missed. May your family be comforted with the many fond memories.

Carolyn Grier - April 03, 2020 at 06:17 PM

BB

“ Ray and Dolores were the sweetest couple. We talked with them after mass every Sunday until they moved. We really missed seeing them at Our Lady of Mercy! We enjoyed catching up with them and hearing about their children and grandchildren. They were so proud of all of you! They are now together again forever. What a beautiful example of marriage they were for others 💕 God bless them!

Brenda Beltz - April 03, 2020 at 05:59 PM

NA

“ Our Deepest condolences Ray was such a sweet person. He will be truly missed
Dr.Patel and staff. Rush Copley

Nancy - April 03, 2020 at 02:34 PM

RT

“ My deepest condolences to the family. I had the pleasure of working with Dolores for many years at MetLife and got to know Ray from some of the social events - company picnic, holiday parties, etc. - and he was just a super guy. He always had a story to tell...while Dolores would laugh and roll her eyes. They were so cute together. And now they are together again. I hope that gives you peace in losing these two wonderful people.

With love,
Ruthanne Trubich



Ruthanne Trubich - April 03, 2020 at 12:13 PM



“ I am so blessed and honored to have had the chance to know Ray. I began teaching painting classes once a month at Presence Fox Knoll in the summer of 2016, and up until recently he attended just about every single class. The best part was, Ray never painted. Instead, he chose to walk around and help the other residents. He jokingly (and lovingly) earned the nickname "paper boy" as he made his way around class, handing out extra paper towels to people who needed them and cracking jokes about how the next month he was going to volunteer to be our life model. Ray always had everyone in the room cracking up. He was a bright light of kindness and laughter, and he will be deeply missed.

Lauren Schmitt - April 03, 2020 at 11:03 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Lauren Schmitt - April 03, 2020 at 10:54 AM



“ Ray and Dolores were a very special couple to us. We spent many visits with them and very much enjoyed their company. Ray had a funny story to tell at anytime. He was very outgoing and just a wonderful person (and Dolores also) to be with. May they both rest in peace. Together at last.
Love to the family,
Jim and Jeanette Lambert

jeanette lambert - April 02, 2020 at 10:04 PM

EG

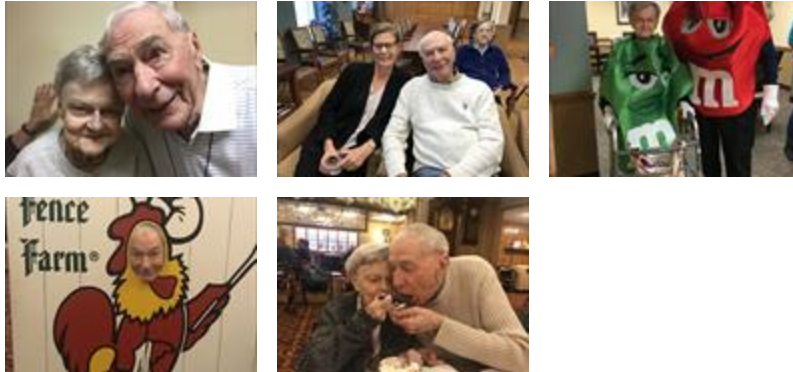
“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Ellie Gravenhorst - April 02, 2020 at 09:16 PM

DM

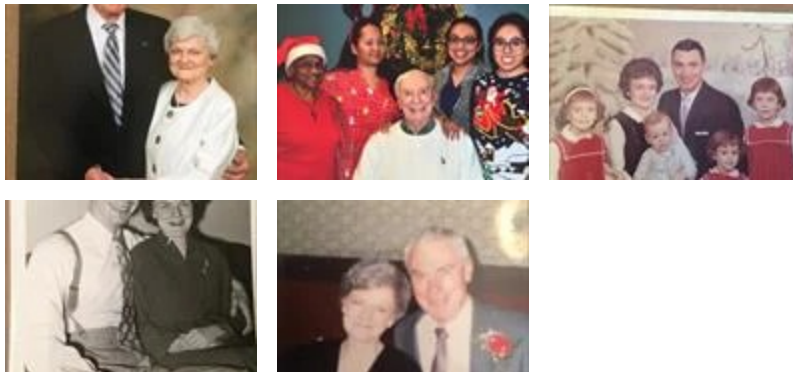
“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Donna Mangold - April 02, 2020 at 02:23 PM

KK

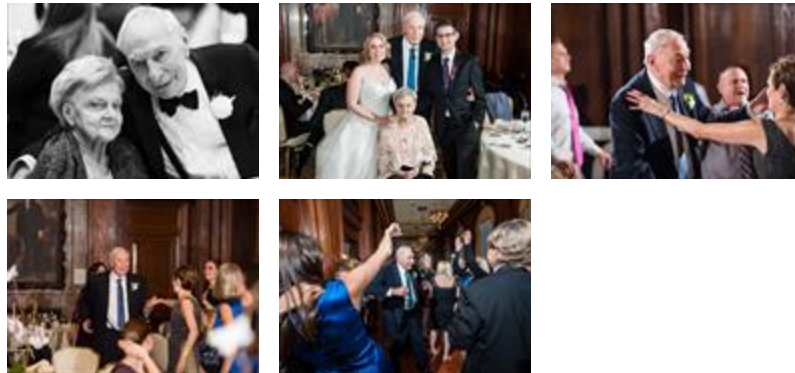
“ 17 files added to the tribute wall



Karen Simonek Karas - April 02, 2020 at 02:21 PM

AG

“ 7 files added to the album Memories Album



Abby Gravenhorst - April 02, 2020 at 01:45 PM

CH

“ *Ray was a super sweet guy with a great sense of humor and a willingness to help. He will be greatly missed by many.*

cheryl Hartnett - April 02, 2020 at 11:09 AM

BB

Ray and Dolores were the sweetest couple. We talked with them after mass every Sunday until they moved. We really missed seeing them at Our Lady of Mercy! We enjoyed catching up with them and hearing about their children and grandchildren. They were so proud of all of you! They are now together again forever. What a beautiful example of marriage they were for others. 💕 God bless them!

Brenda Beltz - April 03, 2020 at 05:51 PM

DM

I met Ray and Dolores at Our Lady of Mercy over 30 years ago. Ray and I were choir buddies. I will never forget his smile and larger than life personality and have missed seeing both of them at Mass for sometime. They will not be forgotten. May they rest in the peace and glory of the Lord.

Debbie Moen - April 03, 2020 at 10:00 PM