



Roger Allen Wahler

February 14, 1937 - July 11, 2019

Roger Allen Wahler passed away peacefully at home with his family on July 11, 2019. Roger was born February 14, 1937 in Fort Plain, New York. He attended Fort Plain High School, and joined the Air Force in 1954 at the age of 17. During his 13 years of active service, he spent four years in Kaiserslautern, Germany as a teletype operator. In 1967, Roger started, what would turn out to be his career, proudly working as a computer technician on the Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) system and the AN/FSQ-7, the largest computer ever built. The AN/FSQ-7 was part of the command and control system for Cold War ground-controlled interception and controlled the NORAD response to a Soviet air attack. In 1983, he and his family moved to Lakewood, Washington, where he trained, serviced, and was an instructor for the new air defense computer, the AN/FYQ-47.

He also served 13 years in the Naval Reserves. Roger retired after 42 years of military and civil service. Roger loved it when he was asked what he did for a living—he would rattle off that he was an “Electronic Digital Data Processing Equipment Technician”! After retiring, Roger’s car stopped at every garage sale in the city. This resulted in over 7000 sales on eBay, and a 100% positive feedback rating. We liked to call him the eBay king.

Roger is survived by the love of his life for the past 59 years, Judy. He also leaves behind his three girls, Dawn (Easter), Lori (Castro), and Darcy (Janzen), 6 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, and sister Shirley Dagner of Ballston Lake N.Y.

A private family gathering will be held later this year at the Veterans Memorial at Mountain View Cemetery in Tacoma, WA.

His life was full of love and happiness, funny jokes, silly songs, and dances. He was an amazing man and will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Gary Sinise Foundation.

Comments



“ Roger made a lot of people laugh along the way. I won't forget all the times he made me smile. That always made my day better. I'll never forget the time he told me how he switched all of the York Mint Patties wrappers and individually and carefully wrapped them on an "inferior" brand of mint patties. Grandma Smith always said the York patties were the best, and she ended up eating and loving the other brand even though Roger switched the wrappers. I don't know if he ever told her about the switch.

Once when I was helping them move, I was driving the moving truck. I ended up backing into a Jeep Grand Cherokee. That would have upset anyone. Somehow Roger always kept an even temper. I felt so bad about that, but he never mentioned it. Thank you for covering me, Roger.

Some things I'll always remember he would say:

His job title when I asked him for the eighth time:

"ElectronicDigitalDataProcessingEquipmentTechnician," except faster.

"Let's go, Wahle!" when he and Judy were about to leave.

Being a big baseball card collector back in the 90s when the Mariners were really hot, whenever Griffey would hit a home run, his signature response: "Another quarter on the card!"

"What'd I say?" if I asked for clarification.

His love for Judy, his children, and grandchildren was unmatched.

"That is an exact truism."

Fondly and with love,
Greg

Greg Janzen - July 23 at 04:36 PM



“ I was blessed to meet Roger, Judy and Darcy when they moved to Washington state. Darcy and I are the same age, our birthdays are only 12 days apart, and we quickly became best friends and 'honorary members' of each other's families. I remember Roger (or as I called him, 'Poppy') as a 'jokester', and as a gullible individual I provided many opportunities for him to practice this particular aspect of his personality. The man could keep his expression totally deadpan while pulling BOTH of someone's legs, and only a split second before he would reveal he was joking he would get this sparkle in his eyes which let the person know he was kidding. Most of us smile first with our mouths, but not Roger - his smile started in his eyes.

I don't remember exactly how old I was, but I think about 15 or 16. Roger was driving Darcy and I somewhere and as we drove by the flight line at McChord I commented on how cool the lights lining the runway looked. Without missing a beat and in true Roger fashion, he tells me they change the lights to red and green on Christmas and

pink and blue on Easter. I was like, “Really? Wow that is so cool that they recognize the holidays that way!” I totally bought it - hook, line, sinker, pole, and tackle box!!! To this day, I still tell this story as a prime example of how gullible I can be (although now I prefer to say ‘trusting’ - it sounds better!)

His jokes were always kind, though – he never joked in a way that would embarrass someone or hurt their feelings. He just enjoyed bringing laughter into the mix, and this is something I will always remember him for because that was just part of who he was. Thank you, Poppy, for the smiles and laughter – you are and always will be loved dearly.

Michele Shaw - July 16 at 12:08 PM



“ Sending heartfelt condolences. After reading the warm obituary, I found myself smiling; he lived a full life with love and happiness. He leaves wonderful memories with wonderful family members. Much love and prayers, Lisa Rankin Faircloth

Lisa Rankin Faircloth - July 15 at 09:16 PM



“ After my brother passed away I thought what is the true measure of a man? Roger was able to successfully balance both a 42 year career in the air force, and a 59 year marriage with his wife Judy. Together they raised a wonderful family. I'm so proud to call him my brother.

Shirley Dagner - July 15 at 07:51 PM



“ It is with deep sorrow that I write this tribute to Roger. We were stationed together at Hancock Field New York from 1965 -1971 when I departed. He was a dear friend who participated in fishing and hunting trips. His good humor was comtageous. He professed to be a spitting image of Wally Cox “Mr. Peepers of TV fame. God Bless him and his family in their hour of grief.

Robert Gorczyca - July 15 at 03:06 PM