



Roger William Law

August 9, 1927 - December 11, 2018

Roger William Law was born August 9, 1927 in Englewood, NJ, the only child of Blanche (Kessler) and Alexander Gladstone Law. He died peacefully at his home in Wellington, FL with family by his side on December 11, 2018.

After graduating from Englewood public schools, Roger went to work for Standard Vacuum company which eventually became Standard Oil company, Esso, Exxon then Exxon/Mobil Corporation. He was a skilled Senior Marine Dispatcher. Roger retired in 1985 after 39 years of employment, occasionally returning as a consultant.

He briefly served in the New Jersey National Guard during the Korean Conflict.

Roger married his sweetheart, Joan Kraus, also of Englewood, on November 1, 1952. A year later, they settled in Nanuet, NY and raised their family for 23 years until moving back to North Jersey in 1994. Once fully retired, Roger and Joan split their time between their second home in Cape May, NJ and a new primary home at Buena Vida, Wellington, FL. They enjoyed vacation travel throughout Europe, Indonesia, China, Ireland, British Isles, Scandanavia (to name a few), US East Coast to West Coast and many more destinations.

Roger was an enthusiastic fisherman of all types: streams and lakes, Puget Sound for salmon, deep sea, but his passion was for fly fishing the streams of upstate New York in his younger years with his childhood friend Biff Wyman and later on the Deerfield River in western Massachusetts while visiting his daughter, Karen. He was a long time member of Trout Unlimited, learned to make his own fishing flies and survived the tragic tip amputation of his beloved Orvis rod ("it's NOT a pole") by his car's automatic window. Roger joined the fishing club at Buena Vida staying active with fishing trips and organizing the club's annual party.

He is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Joan K. Law of Wellington, FL, and two daughters; Karen Bressett of Madison, WI and Diane Gibson of Stamford, CT. Also mourning his loss are four grandchildren; Holly (Bressett) Bender of Madison, WI, Major

Stephen Bressett of Montgomery, AL, and Brianna and Danielle Gibson of Stamford, CT. Roger was also blessed with four great grandchildren.

Missed will be Roger's quiet but dependable loving support of all of his family's endeavors, the endless hours sitting and playing with us on the beaches of Cape May, NJ, and the meticulous way he would brush off every visible grain of sand before storing chairs and toys. He was a master vacation car-packer, a truly accurate math homework checker, vicious gin-rummy opponent, playful coin trickster, and joke teller, willing grand kid babysitter, devoted dog walker. He knew all the neighbors.

The family would like to thank the West Palm Beach/Wellington EMT/paramedics for their responses to Roger's medical needs, the numerous neighbors for their selfless help, the Bright Star Agency and their aides' compassionate and patient care over the last 6 months, and most especially our dearest friends Patti and Frank Caruso for their long time and unfailing devotion to the Law family.

In lieu of flowers, we suggest memorial contributions be made to Trout Unlimited at <http://www.tu.org> "Donate Now" and/or West Palm Beach/Wellington first responders.

At this time of sadness, your condolences, memories, stories and any pictures of Roger posted to his tribute page are a most welcome respite. Thank you.

In memorandum - Calling/visiting hours will be at the Law Residence 9250 Via Elegante in Buena Vida, Wellington, FL 33411 on Wednesday December 19th between 3pm-7pm. We hope you can join us to celebrate Roger with photos, stories, food and drink. Please call ahead if arriving from outside of the Buena Vida community for gate access. 413-522-2608 or 561-792-1266.

Comments



“ Roger was a beautiful soul. I met Roger during one of my walks in our community as he was walking his beloved Daisy. Roger always had a smile and an easy going way that drew people to him. Chatting with Roger was always a pleasure. There are people with beautiful souls whom you may not know well, but they leave a lasting and warmhearted impression. Roger was one of those people.

Leslie Hingorani - December 19, 2018 at 04:06 PM



“ Roger Law...He was a jester, and a friendly face to all he encountered. Roger effortlessly took on the attributes of the grandfather I never knew. He put up with Steve and my shenanigans and made us laugh all the while. Roger was wise, and young at heart, offering sage advice while simultaneously firing off his calcium carbide play cannon. He will be missed but fondly remembered. May the lord bless him in eternity.
- Natty Hussey

Natty Hussey - December 18, 2018 at 09:01 PM



“ If it wasn't for the love and guidance of Mom2 and RoRo, I would not be the person I am. They shared my childhood and helped my parents, Joan and John, figure out how to raise me. Thank you to their daughter Diane for quitting the flute, and thank you Joan and Roger for helping my parents navigate and inspiring an eager young flutist - playing Diane's flute at first! For that I will be forever grateful. Although, I think Roger was grooming me to be a card shark and was eagerly awaiting when I'd become old enough to go with him to the casinos in Atlantic City. We played hundreds of card games but it wasn't long before Roger recognized I could count cards. He never minded losing to me. Always had a smile and twinkle in his eye - like a proud father. I was truly lucky to have two sets of loving parents. Even better was being able to call them family and best friends. There has not been a year in my life without Roger. He became the only connection I had to my father, John. Roger would cry every Father's Day when I'd call to say how much I loved him. My children Rachel and Ellis already miss his kind words and silly jokes. Ellis misses his fishing buddy. I love you RoRo and will always remember you with a smile.

Roxanne Went - December 18, 2018 at 03:51 PM



“ I was fortunate to have grown up with the Law family and call them Mom2 and RoRo. We got even closer and spent much time when they moved to Cape May and Florida (snowbirds). So many memories of holidays, vacation and just everyday activities are wrapped up with all the Laws.

Roger's love of fishing was certainly shared with my husband Frank and myself. No way can one live in Cape May and especially at the marina without being bitten by the fishing bug. Frank, Roger and Captain Guido did much ocean fishing and story telling to fill a life time. Since we had a requirement that the biggest fish caught buys lunch, we needed to keep an eagle eye on Roger as he was known to 'loose' the fish when it was apparently going to be the biggest fish. However, when we went on a head boat and it appeared Roger's fish was going to b the biggest, he offered to share half the pool winnings with Carlie the young mate should he win Yup, Roger gave Charlie half the money. Roger was known to be tight with the money but very generous also.

Roger was always going for the laugh with his jokes and coin tricks. He was the only one who could keep a straight face when ordering from a server saying 'I will have exactly the same, only different'.

Like everyone else, we will miss Roger but hold onto the many memories.

Love you RoRo, Patti



Patti Caruso - December 18, 2018 at 12:19 PM



“ Holly Bender: "My grandfather was a funny guy. He had a knack for connecting with strangers, and was known by my friends for his jokes and coin tricks, always looking for a laugh. He taught me to play gin rummy, and how to pack the car perfectly for a day at the beach. He and I shared a deep love of bologna sandwiches and cheez-its. He took the mic at our wedding, and gave Steve and me a picture of him with a black eye, warning of the dangers of marriage. The whole place shook with laughter, and as you can see in the picture, I could barely hold it together.

He died at home in Florida last week, 91 years young, and if he could have mustered the words, I'm certain his last phrase to all of us would have been designed for a laugh."



Holly Bender - December 17, 2018 at 02:24 PM



“ Frank Caruso

I remember with great happiness our many fishing trips on the Seascap with Roger, Guido, my wife , Patti and I. We caught many fish, had fun and had great lunches. The person catching the largest fish bought lunch.

Frank S Caruso - December 16, 2018 at 04:29 PM



“ As a son-in -law he always treated me with respect. I remember many times going to Cape may and he had a plan with his friends and always he would pull me aside and ask if I wanted to go along. I will never forget that.

We went to cape may soon after Brianna was born, we all went to Sunday brunch and Di noticed Roger had no hat. I was wearing my "new father" cap so I took it off and gave it to him. At one point he went to the outside bar to get drinks still wearing the cap and the bartender quickly congratulated he on his success. He wore it the rest of the day and refused too take it off. That was Rodger. It was a great day, loads of laughs every-time someone new congratulated him on his new baby.

Rodger Gibson - December 16, 2018 at 03:43 PM



“ I spoke with my mother Gloria Fairfield Wyman this morning about Roger’s passing. She and Roger grew up together as next-door neighbors on Pleasant Avenue in Englewood, New Jersey. I believe they were the last two of those early residents. I think that I can safely say that I have known Roger for my entire lifetime. He and his wife Joan were best friends with my parents for many years.

After Roger moved out of Englewood, it was I who occasionally cut his mother’s lawn with an old push-style, non-powered lawn mower. That said, I don’t think I minded the work, and I probably got a dollar or at least a couple of quarters for my efforts. And I got to hang out with my grandparents while I was there.

Although Roger was old enough to be my father, he was a friend. I don’t remember calling him Mr. Law way back then, I called him Roger mostly. Along with my father Bob Wyman, Roger would come to our apartment in Englewood to play our own card game called “Bumper” with additional friends who were more my age. We’d all sit on the floor around a large telephone cable spool converted into a nearly two-foot high dining table and play cards for hours at a dollar per hand.

After that, I moved up into the woods in northwest New Jersey and the Laws moved to the shore in Cape May at the opposite end of the state and spent their winters in Florida. Up until about six or seven years ago Roger and I would regularly exchange email messages. Looking at his name in my older laptop’s address book, his name appeared in all caps meaning that he was on my distribution list for funny things I’d pass along. And his email messages to me were almost always signed with his signature “SEZ Roger” closing.

My father passed away on September 26, 1997. Nearly three years later on Saturday, September 9, 2000 I had the pleasure of seeing Roger and Joan at a Chinese restaurant in Closter, New Jersey where they were joining our family and good friends for my mother’s 75th birthday party.

Later in the afternoon in the restaurant’s parking lot Roger called to me and out-of-the-blue handed me an unopened, vintage bottle of the original Canada’s Finest, Seagram’s V.O. Canadian Whiskey (one of my favorite brands at the time). The bottle was 4/5 quart (pre-liter size) and 86.8 proof (stronger than today’s typical 80 proof). Making it even more unique the paper label securing the cap to the bottle included the date 1968. It was aged an additional 32 years and my friend Roger just gave it to me to enjoy. No birthday, no special occasion, just as a gift to a friend. Wow! It was so special to me that to this day I saved the long-emptied bottle on the shelf of our bar. It was a very special gift from a very special friend.



“ I'll always cherish the memory of a Father's Day he and Joan had dinner at my home. We laughed, and had such a good time! He was always interested in what my son was doing, and was a delightful spirit. He will be missed.

joan kovats - December 16, 2018 at 01:46 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Chris Wyman - December 16, 2018 at 01:01 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Chris Wyman - December 16, 2018 at 11:19 AM