



Ellwyn Carl Englof

June 16, 1947 - May 15, 2022

Obituary for Ellwyn C. Englof, 1947-2022

Written by Gayle Englof

As I sit here writing this obituary, I am in the sunroom looking out on Ellwyn's garden with all of its beauty - flowers, native plants, birds of all kinds. I am reminded of the first time we saw this house in 1976, right before our wedding. We fell in love with the property. Over the years we remodeled and molded the house together into a structure in which we raised our wonderful daughters and shared our life for 46 years.

When we received the pancreatic cancer diagnosis 13 months ago, we were stunned. Of course we would fight every step of the way. At times, we felt we were winning - only to have a setback. During our journey, we lived life as fully as we could. We spent time with family and dear friends, went to Rockford Symphony concerts, took hikes at Atwood Forest Preserve and Nygren Wetlands, and enjoyed one last ski trip to Colorado.

Ellwyn was born in 1947 in Rockford to Eldora and Harold Englof and was raised at Zion Lutheran Church. He was an Eagle Scout and spent time in the boundary waters with his scout troop. He learned to sail at a very early age and spent many days crewing at Lake Geneva. Eventually he bought a wood C-scow and kept it at Lake Delevan. We dated for 3 years and I was his crew in the Saturday sailboat races. (We lost every one).

Ellwyn graduated in the Guilford High School class of 1965 and went to the University of Illinois, majoring in mechanical engineering. His first job was with Ingersoll Milling Machine Company. He then worked for the consulting division of Ingersoll and we moved to Germany and later England 1978-82. We LOVED our time in Europe and made lifelong friends in England. Later, he joined Sundstrand Aviation for the balance of his career. He planned factories in many countries, including Brazil, Poland, Germany, and England. He spoke fluent German. We have many dear relatives and friends in Sweden and have visited them several times. The highlight of all of our trips was our last trip to Oland (the home of three of our grandparents) with our cousin Jeff Nelson and his wife Dana, where

we did a family bike ride across the island with our Swedish cousins.

A lifelong relationship with nature drew Ellwyn to the work of the Natural Land Institute and he served on the board and committees for many years. His love of music was evident with his support of the Rockford Symphony Orchestra, attending all concerts and serving on committees and the board of the Symphony Foundation. Together, we established the Isadore Olson Scholarship for the Rockford Symphony Youth Orchestra.

I cannot describe the kindness we have received from our dear friends and our family. Ellwyn felt so loved and was very grateful. We received the most outstanding care from Dr. Harvey Einhorn and the SwedishAmerican Cancer center LOVING nurses and staff. A special thank you to Dr. Stephen Minore who helped us in the last weeks of Ellwyn's journey. In addition, the doctors and staff from the University of Chicago were wonderful during the Whipple surgery in August and worked closely with Dr. Einhorn throughout our treatment.

My dear husband lived his life with kindness to everyone. I hope when you read this obituary, you will be inspired to hold your loved ones close and savor every single day you have together. Survivors include his wife Gayle, daughters Ila Englof (Marco Bernasconi), Carla Englof (Andrew Ladd), and beloved grandchildren Camilla and Mattia Bernasconi.

Celebration of Life on Saturday, May 28 from 2-7pm

Short memorial service at 5pm

Location: Atwood Forest Preserve, Old Settlers Shelter - 8990 Old River Rd., Rockford, IL 61103

Memorials can be made to: The Rockford Symphony Orchestra, the Natural Land Institute, and the Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research

In keeping with Ellwyn's wishes, his body was donated for medical science to the Anatomical Gift Association of Illinois.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 28. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Atwood Forest Preserve - Old Settler's Shelter
8990 Old River Road
Rockford, 61103

Memorial Service

MAY 28. 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM (CT)

Atwood Forest Preserve - Old Settler's Shelter
8990 Old River Road
Rockford, 61103

Tribute Wall

FB

“ I worked with this great guy he called me bird dog i called him stretch. I will always remember him as a 1st class guy. I am sadden by death. Will keep Ellwyn in my prayers.

Frank bird dog Buchmann

frank buchmann - June 01 at 01:45 PM

PM

“ Gayle,
What a beautiful obituary for Ellwyn. I went to school at Bloom, Lincoln and Guilford with him and our parents were very good friends. Stretch and Eldora spent many winters in Fort Myers with my folks, Peg and Fred Hoegberg. Even though I had not seen Ellwyn for years my mother would keep me informed about your family. I am so very sorry. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Patti Hoegberg McClure

Patti McClure - May 29 at 03:41 PM

GA

“ Gayle, I am so sorry to hear yesterday of Elywn's passing. I have such great memories over the years of him and definitely when we were classmates at Lincoln Junior High. His kindness and thoughtfulness were so evident even then when he was a youngster. I will miss him very much. I wish we could be at his celebration, but are with friends up in the Northwoods this weekend. I will be thinking of Elywn as we ride our bikes through the trails of nature. Peace be with you and your family. Treasure the time you spent together. He was such a wonderful person. We will miss him greatly. Gary and Carol Anderson

Gary W. Anderson - May 28 at 09:15 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ellwyn Carl Englof.



May 25 at 12:07 PM

KS

“ Thoughts and prayers to your family. Many fond memories of the two of you at University Club of Rockford and hearing about your travels. RIP

Kurt Schiffer - May 23 at 10:58 PM



“ A life well lived. Condolences to the Englof family. Jon and Leslie Gibbs

Leslie Gibbs - May 23 at 02:18 PM

RS

Never thought he could play football but he sure did!

Robert Stitzel - May 23 at 06:30 PM

JB

Ellwyn was one of the kindest and interesting men I knew. When I decided to come to the 2010 Guilford reunion, he and Gayle welcomed me with open arms, filled me in on their family and adventures, and surprised me with a dinner that included two of my Rockford cousins. While Ellwyn's love of life and his family were so integral to his response to cancer, the image I treasure from my time with him and Gayle is summed up in this poem by Brahma:

*When the one man loves the one woman and
the one woman loves the one man, the very angels leave
heaven and come sit in that house and sing for joy.*

Wishing the Englof family all the best.

Julia Bergren

Julia Bergren - May 23 at 10:15 PM

CH

“ Chuck and Linda Helsten purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ellwyn Carl Englof.



Chuck and Linda Helsten - May 23 at 12:52 PM

BB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Birgitta Berling - May 23 at 03:07 AM

HW

“ *Gayle and family, our sincerest sympathies to you and your family. We were privileged to know Ellwyn in high school and afterwards. He was involved in keeping the class of 1965's listings of classmates and was much appreciated by the reunion committee. I was very privileged to communicate with Ellwyn during his battle with pancreatic cancer. I can still remember the call he gave me telling me of his cancer and that I would have to take over his duties. I understood much of what he was going through with his pancreas as I too have had problems with my pancreas. He always had a positive attitude when I received his emails even though I'm sure the surgeries and treatments were agonizing and painful. Once again our sympathies. 1965 classmates - Harold Winebaugh and Sherry Kittlesen Winebaugh*

Harold Winebaugh - May 22 at 10:58 AM

ME

Our sincere sympathy to all of you.

Many memories flood my mind when I think of the Engloffs.

First with Ellwyn being at Guilford with my brother Jeff Mahloch and them playing basketball. My sister Robyn remembers ice skating with Ellwyn.

Then our children became friends and we spent many fun times together swimming at Lake Leanna, and Ila and Carla and our Kyle and Sara being good friends and those friendships still continue.

We worshipped together at Grace Lutheran Church for many years.

I would bump into Gayle (usually at the fabric store) and we would catch up on the kids and what project she was working on or travels they were planning.

We always enjoyed our times together and appreciate all the good memories we have.

All the Eertmoeds send their love and condolences.

Mary and Rich Eertmoed

Mary Mahloch Eertmoed - May 28 at 02:28 PM

ME

Thinking of all of you and sending our love.

Mary Mahloch Eertmoed - May 28 at 02:30 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ellwyn Carl Englof.*



May 21 at 06:20 PM



Jo
Kobler

“ *What a beautifully written obituary. We grew up with Ellwyn and his sister. My dad, Clarence Borg. and Harold worked together at Woodward Governor. They were in a potluck group together. I think Harold was also in their barbershop group. Sometimes they would have picnics where all the kids would get together as well. Ellwyn was my sister's age so 4 years older than me but I remember him so well. Tall, like his dad. So like his dad.*

It sounds like Ellwyn had a wonderful life and family. Doesn't get any better than that.

My sincerest sympathy

Joellyn Borg Kobler

Corrales New Mexico

Jo Kobler - May 21 at 03:35 PM

LL

“ *My heart is heavy to learn of Ellwyn's passing. Each time I was in his presence I felt his peace and open heart. Such a brilliant, devoted, caring, and gentle man. Gayle, I know you and your family are heart broken. Your obituary was so beautiful and an amazingly clear testimony to your love and respect for Ellwyn. May you find solace however and wherever you can. His actions were based on his true convictions and his commitment to the things about which he was most passionate were remarkable and worthy of much admiration. Peace be with you all.*

Lorie Langan - May 21 at 11:03 AM

SO

“ *Ellwyn and I grew up together in the "Bloom School" neighborhood. We played many baseball and basketball games together at the Bloom School playgrounds. Later we both played on the Guilford High School football team as tight ends. Ellwyn started most games and I was his backup. Ellwyn was the only person that I knew that became a full fledged Eagle Scout. Sincere condolences to you Gayle and the rest of your family.....Steve Olson*

Steve Olson - May 21 at 08:25 AM

GC

“ *I knew Ellwyn through our time at Sundstrand. While I can't comment regarding his engineering activities, I was immediately impressed by his personality and apparent high standards of ethics and integrity. He encouraged trust and was a true Gentleman. My sincere condolences to Gayle and their family.*

Gordon Conover

Gordon G Conover - May 20 at 03:03 PM

JM

“ We have very fond memories of Ellwyn from conversations at church. He made people feel comfortable with his calm demeanor. Ellwyn's kindness was evident. We are saddened by his passing.

Rand & Jeanette Moore

Jeanette Moore - May 20 at 12:53 PM

LG

“ Gayle & family, so sorry to hear about Ellwyn's passing. He was a great person. I am sure he will greatly missed. Lou Grace.

Lou Grace - May 20 at 11:18 AM

PH

“ To gayle and family
Our sincere condolences to the family of Ellwyn
A remarkable thing was his youthful appearance
My of our friends have commented about this
He gave me my first sailboat ride
I helped him through geometry
He became a u of i engineer, i became a salesman
May the Lord with your family
Paul hinaber
My prospect, il
Lincoln and Guilford classmate

paul hinaber - May 20 at 12:28 AM

LD

“ What a beautiful story to read about Ellwyn. He was obviously a man of many talents and interests and put them to use to enjoy your lives together. We know he must have touched many lives and will be well remembered and missed.
Sincerely, Dick and Linda Dunphey

Linda Dunphey - May 19 at 10:52 PM

CJ

“ Carl heard of Ellwyn's passing at golf this morning. We are so sorry to hear this, and wish you comfort in the memories and celebration of his well lived life. We will be keeping all of you in our hearts & prayers.
Carl & Jane Freehauf

Carl & Jane - May 19 at 08:46 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ellwyn Carl Englof.*



May 19 at 06:32 PM

KV

“ *Ellwyn has always been a favorite of mine even as our lives ebbed and flowed away from each other. I think a big part of why I like Ellwyn is that he always seemed to respect me and listen to me - even when I was a bratty kid running around his house! Many years and family gatherings later, we started crossing paths professionally at community events and meetings - and I would look forward to the ones that I knew Gayle and Ellwyn would be attending. I knew there would be a good conversation to be had! I'm going to miss that. I'm going to miss Ellwyn, but I feel blessed to have had him on the perimeters of my life, throughout my life. My love and condolences to Gayle, Iyla, Carla and their entire family. Kath Velasco*

Kathy Velasco - May 19 at 02:49 PM