



## Ralph E. Kall

July 16, 1930 - July 20, 2011

Ralph E. Kall, 81 of Rockford died on July 20, 2011 at 8:10 p.m. in his home. He quit smoking 42 years ago, but was diagnosed with damaged lungs due to his 20 years of smoking. Ralph was born on July 16, 1930, son of Walter and Ruth (O'Neil) Kall. He attended Kishwaukee School, Lincoln Junior High School, East High School and Augustana College (BA). Served in the United States Air Force for four years during the Korean Conflict. Ralph spent some time in California before returning to Rockford. He was employed in New York City for several years with the State Employment Service, specializing in Jobs for Youth and in Rockford for 20 years with the US Postal Service, including some time as a Supervisor. Ralph was a Rockford Symphony Orchestra and Lyric Opera season ticket holder. He enjoyed participating in activities and classes with the Center for Learning in Retirement at Rock Valley College, and was involved in Rockford Peace and Justice. He actively spoke out against the Vietnam War and the invasion of Iraq. Ralph believed in the value of helping others and was a regular contributor to the blood bank until his illness prevented him from donating. His brother Walter remembers him fondly, and believes that he could never have picked a better companion than his "little brother" Ralph. They traveled together to Cuba, on a Jazz Cruise with Bill Korst, to Austria on September 11, 2001, China in 2004 and many trips to Ravinia. Ralph was an amazing uncle and his nieces and nephews looked forward to spending time with him and hearing stories of his travels and growing up years. He was a big brother who helped his sister and family build

their home. He is survived by his siblings, Walter H. Kall, of Rockford, Marilyn (Stan) McCrudden of Thomson, IL; nieces and nephews, Sandy (Al) Dierckman, Sherry (Terry) Fife, Stanley John (Kris) McCrudden, Sean (Sara) McCrudden; many great nieces and nephews and numerous great-great nieces and nephews; cousins, Mike (Chris) O'Neil of Milwaukee, and their sons, Joshua and Caleb; friends and neighbors, Bill and Susan Robertson, Terry and Louise Carlson, Herb and Sharon Eckstein, Jim and Marlis Goodin, all of who we are very thankful for their friendship and help. Preceded in death by his parents. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Cremation rites will be accorded. To share a memory or condolence, please visit [www.graceFH.com](http://www.graceFH.com). Grace Funeral & Cremation Services is assisting the family.

# Tribute Wall

AH

“ Hello Walt, May I express my deepest sympathies to you and members of your family in your recent loss of your wonderful gentlemanly brother Ralph. I have very fond memories and appreciation of him for his support of one of our two groups - Partners In Education All Children Equitably and in my friendship with both of you through the Rockford Chapter of Chicago Lyric Opera. He was a thoughtful, supportive, and interesting person with whom to work and I very much enjoyed his views on the issues which were being discussed. He was a very fair minded person and will be sorely missed. Warmly, Alice Heath

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Alice Heath - July 26, 2011 at 09:50 AM

CM

“ Dear Walt and family,

*I was so sorry to read of Ralph's death. He was a sensitive, gracious, and thoughtful human being and a true gentleman. I enjoyed knowing him through our Lyric opera chapter and the UU church. I appreciated the chance to know more about his life through your very fine obituary. I know all of you will miss him terribly.*

*(My mother, too, died of lung cancer, despite having quit smoking.)*

*Please know I am thinking of you.*

*In sympathy,*

*(Rev.) Colleen McDonald*

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Colleen M. McDonald - July 24, 2011 at 07:33 AM

FG

“ I remember his mother Ruth and my mother (Evelyn Gregorcy) worrying and discussing their sons. Ralph was my brother John (dede) Raymond's age and Walter was my brother Bob age. I would take my mother to visit in Kirkland. They had been friends since high school along with Lorraine Anderson.  
Frances Gregorcy

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**Frances Gregorcy** - July 23, 2011 at 12:58 PM