



Roland A. Edwards

April 24, 1951 - October 12, 2022

Roland A. Edwards, 71, of Rockford passed away on October 12, 2022. Born April 24, 1951 in Rockford; son of Roland Herbert and Patricia (Marvel) Edwards. Graduate of West High School, 1969 where he played golf, basketball, football and was a member of acapella. Attended Rock Valley College and Bradley University. Roland was employed with Laborers Local 32. United in marriage to Roberta Cowan on February 4, 1995 at Westminster Presbyterian in Rockford. Roland began golfing at the age of 9 and won the first Melvin Ballard Golf Tournament in Rockford at the age of 17. Later in life, he made a hole in one on #13 at Aldeen Golf Course. Roland also liked bowling, and his weekly Thursday night "Boy's Night" with his brothers. He enjoyed gardening, bird watching, cooking, a good cigar and regular trips to the dog park. Roland was the former co-manager of Charlotte's Web. He loved his family and was devoted to his grandkids. He had a beautiful voice and everyone looked forward to his annual singing happy birthday calls. He was completely enamored with his rescue dog of two years, Sam. Roland was proud of his 22 years of sobriety, and a friend of Bill W. Survived by his wife; step-sons, Nate (Alaina Recker) Peterson, Jake (Alyssa) Peterson; grandchildren, Gavin, Jennika, Avigaile, Delani, Emmarie; siblings, Michael Edwards, David (Penny) Edwards, Bradley Edwards, Kim (Glen) Ford, Kathleen Smith, Karen (Garry) McGregor, Kay Lonergan, Diane (Todd) Schwebke; brother-in-law, Chris (Nita) Cowan; sister-in-law, Joanna Gabel; and favorite dog, Sam; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins; special friends, Frank (Chris) Genovese, Jeff (Madalyn) Johnson, Pat Kimball, Ronnie (Pam) McFadden, Mike (Jan) Truitt; incredible neighbors, Morey and Ann Washington; and many others. Preceded in death by his parents; sister, Kristine Edwards Zaug; sister-in-law, Kelly Edwards; brothers-in-law, Steve Smith, Joe Lonergan, Bill Gabel; nephew, Eddie Molitor, niece, Amanda Hammack-Garrison; and father-in-law and mother-in-law, Bob and Ann Cowan. Roland's family is grateful to the ICU team at Javon Bea Mercy Hospital for the valiant effort and excellent care they gave Roland during his stay. Memorial Visitation, Friday October 21, 2022 from 11 am to noon at Grace Funeral & Cremation Services, 4301 N. Main St. Rockford, followed by a Celebration of Life at noon. Pastor Dan Herman will officiate. Live stream of the service can be viewed here: <https://my.gather.app/remember/roland-a-edwards> Cremation rites will be accorded. Share a memory or condolence at

Cemetery Details

Rock River Crematory

4301 N. Main Street
Rockford, IL 61103

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

OCT **21**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services
4301 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103

Celebration of Life

OCT **21**. 12:00 PM - 1:45 PM (CT)

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services
4301 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103

Tribute Wall



“ Grace Funeral & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Roland A. Edwards



Grace Funeral & Cremation Services - October 23, 2022 at 01:55 PM

MI

“ Dear Mike,

I am sorry for your loss. I remember your brother from Atwood GC when I was a junior golfer and played there. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Mark A. Isabelli

Mark A. Isabelli - October 19, 2022 at 07:34 PM

ME

Mark, thank you so much for sharing that memory

Mike Edwards - November 01, 2022 at 05:06 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Roland A. Edwards.



October 19, 2022 at 02:35 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Roland A. Edwards.



October 19, 2022 at 12:52 PM

MW

“ We count our blessings to have had Roland for our neighbor. We will miss our chats with him in the back yard, talking about golf, the best cigars to buy, and the dogs. Roland loved Sammy, and got quite the kick out of watching him play with our dogs Remi and Oakley. Remi knew when it was time for Roland to go outside and smoke his cigars, and also knew the time of day when he would toss a bone over the fence. She would wait in the corner looking up at their window, barking to try and get Roland to come out sooner. Breaks our heart to see her still looking up at their window. We are keeping Roland and his entire family in our prayers.

Morey & Ann Washington - October 18, 2022 at 02:56 PM

ME

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Mike Edwards - October 17, 2022 at 10:28 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Roland A. Edwards.



October 17, 2022 at 03:12 PM

KO

“ I'm so very, very sorry for the family's loss of this gentle spirit and inspirational family man. I knew Roland for many years as he was a dear and longtime friend of my brother's (Jeff Johnson). I have a lot of memories of Roland, but one thing I'll always remember about him was his big, warm, wonderful smile! His smile could warm anybody's heart. Roberta, you and your family have my deepest sympathy and my heartfelt prayers. Wishing you peace, comfort, and courage as you mourn the loss of the very important and loving person in your lives. God bless you now and forever.

Kristy Johnson Ostergard

Kristy Johnson Ostergard - October 17, 2022 at 12:32 PM

SV

“ So very sorry for your loss....

steven e vasseur - October 17, 2022 at 09:26 AM

ME

Thank you Steve

Mike Edwards - October 17, 2022 at 10:32 PM

DW

“ My thoughts and prayers to the family I didn't know him real well he was a little older however I had spent many many nights for sleepovers as I lived across the street on rockton avenue best of friends with Christine his younger sister such a wonderful family. Debbie williford pifer

Deborah williford - October 16, 2022 at 09:25 AM

CB

“ Roberta and family. So sorry.

Carl and Julie A Bufalo - October 15, 2022 at 10:48 PM

MT

“ Rolie was a friend whom I felt close to even though we didn't see each other often enough . When we had the opportunity to play golf together in senior tournaments etc a handshake between us wasn't good enough for Rolie. Big hugs we're in order : 1:❤️🙏 I always looked up to Rolie as one of the stars of our west high golf team and his accomplishments after high school in this great sport. Golf is a game where you gain your closest friends and keep them forever: 1:❤️🙏 Rest In Peace Rolie. Love you buddy and thank you for being my friend ❤️🙏 God Bless and comfort Roberta and all of Rolie's family 🙏🙏🙏

Michael trutt - October 15, 2022 at 09:43 PM

ME

Thank you Mike. He always loved teeing it up with you!

Mike Edwards - October 17, 2022 at 10:32 PM



Roberta and family. I m deeply saddened by your loss. Roland was wonderful man. I graduated from West High School with Roland & Roberta in 1969. I worked with Roberta at the Rockford Clinic many years ago. I saw Roland for the first time this summer at a class picnic at Scott's house. I enjoyed my visit with him. He was telling me how much he adored his wife Roberta and I told him how much Roberta adored him. Because, at our monthly class breakfast at Jessicas Roberta was always praising him and always watching over him. I found it very touching. My prayers to Roberta & her family. God Bless

Norma Traxel - October 24, 2022 at 06:54 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Roland A. Edwards.*



October 15, 2022 at 01:11 PM