



Ralph Spencer Stoetzel Jr.

April 21, 1946 - June 5, 2023

Ralph Spencer Stoetzel, Jr. died June 5, 2023 at Big Bend Hospice from complications of Multiple Sclerosis. He was born Easter Sunday, April 21, 1946 in Chicago, IL. to Ralph and Carol Stoetzel.

Ralph grew up in Barrington Hills, IL, and graduated from Barrington High School where he was a member of the basketball and golf teams. He attended Arizona State University where he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. After college, Ralph returned to Chicago and worked for Ralph Stoetzel Architects and Engineers. In 1979, he moved his family to Phoenix, Arizona where he worked in the commercial real estate business. Later the family moved to Tallahassee where he also worked as a commercial real estate broker.

Ralph is survived by his son Lee Stoetzel and daughter-in-law Kelly and granddaughter Sara of Philadelphia; and his son Spencer Stoetzel and grandchildren Spencer and Olivia of Tallahassee. Other survivors include his sister Heidi Edwards and husband Martin Powers of Amelia Island, his brother John Stoetzel and wife Margaret Mary of Chicago, his brother Fritz Stoetzel and wife Maureen of Charlottesville, Va., his sister Sally Remington of Santa Fe, NM., and his sister Carol Fitzgerald and husband Bobby of Barrington, Ill. He is also survived by several cherished nieces and nephews.

There will be a family service at a later date at his childhood church, St. Marks Episcopal, in Barrington Hills, Illinois.

The family is being assisted by Jackie Fulford and Skip Young at Young Fulford Funeral Home and Crematory, Tallahassee Florida. 850.610.4444
YoungFulford.com

Tribute Wall

BR

“ Ralph and I met when we were five, in kindergarten at Countryside School. We went to school together for 17 years: Barrington High School, Arizona State University. He was on the golf team at BHS and ASU and was best man at my wedding in 1969. When I think of Ralph, I think of a extraordinary fun...he was definitely our Chairman of Fun throughout the years. At ASU, I recall being very hungry at 2:00am in Tempe. We had worked extra hard at fun and were starving. We were on foot. The Jack-in-the-Box would not serve us from the window due no doubt to insurance issues. Ralph to the rescue. He had four of us stand in the shape of car passengers, and we shuffled back to the window while maintaining our vehicle shape. The girl at the window was in hysterics, and she actually broke down and said she would throw our order to us in the parking lot as long as we stayed outside the the pickup lane.

I recall being concerned about a house he rented on Scottsdale Road (before it became so congested) because I did not think we should have to drive all the way out there from Tempe. Eventually I understood the strategy: the house was in the desert with absolutely no neighbors in sight. So no matter how many all-nighters we had, there were no neighbors to complain....a brilliant strategy that worked perfectly as our party headquarters.

There are so many memories. A few years ago, we met while I was traveling through the panhandle. I am very grateful for that meeting and for his friendship throughout my entire life.

Barbara Reed - September 04, 2024 at 04:53 PM



“ Ralph Spencer Stoetzel Jr.

October 22, 2023 at 10:27 PM



“ Ralph Spencer Stoetzel Jr.

October 09, 2023 at 11:25 AM



“ Ralph and I dated in high school, beginning when I was a freshman and he a junior, continuing off and on for a couple of years. I don't remember "breaking up" but I do remember passing him some years later at a country club in Barrington, Illinois, where we had grown up. He said, "You have a fat stomach." I said, "You're bald." It was a fond exchange. I didn't talk to him again until he unexpectedly called five or so years ago to catch up.

Ralph was an excellent boyfriend. He had all the attributes that appeal to a certain kind of teenage girl. Handsome, tall, older, good car. He also seemed a bit dangerous. We drank scotch. He drove fast, with the top down. We smoked Marlboros. We went to the drive-in with Jay and Dawn, and made out. In other words, we were not student leaders.

In retrospect I realize that Ralph was more than just a cool boyfriend. He was kind, polite, generous and thoughtful, and maybe in our own way we loved each other. When we last spoke, he told me with pride about the accomplishments of his children.

Did he have MS then? I don't know. He didn't say.

Jane Berentson

Jane - July 06, 2023 at 04:45 PM

LA

“ I pray Ralph has been released of all his physical pain and his heart is filled with joy once again. I had the pleasure of knowing him briefly after his MS diagnosis and was honored when he would allow the light of his sense of humor and love for his children and grandchildre to shine bright.

Lauren - June 09, 2023 at 02:50 PM

JE

“ Condolences to the entire Stoetzel family. Ralph was a great friend who loved his family, friends, and golf and he was always fun to be with. May he rest in peace!

Jay and Dawn Edwards

Jay Edwards - June 08, 2023 at 04:15 PM

MC

Becky and I will greatly miss Ralph. He was a close wonderful friend who we have many fond memories of from growing up together in Barrington Hills to Phoenix to Tallahassee. He was always fun to be with, smart , open , and loved Leah and his boys , and grandkids. I will always be grateful having meet Charlie Boyd and Paul Rocke through Ralph at ASU who remain close friends of ours. Mike and Becky Cunningham

mike cunningham - August 29, 2023 at 04:09 PM