



W. Ray "Doc" Rummell

December 27, 1935 - January 30, 2020

W. Ray "Doc" Rummell, passed away at the age of 84 after a short, but hard fight against pneumonia on January 30, 2020. The previously announced graveside service will be a PRIVATE ceremony.

Celebration of Life will be Saturday, February 8 starting at 11 A.M. at the family home, 2 Cottage Circle, Chico.

Dr. Rummell was born December 27, 1935, son of Elizabeth E. Rummell and adopted son of Robert W. Rummell, Sr. He was known by his middle name, Ray and as a professor at CSU, Chico was addressed as "Doc" by his students.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Elizabeth Rummell, father, Robert Rummell Sr., brothers, Robert Rummell Jr. and Regis Rummell.

He is survived by his wife Lillie; Children Shelly Presnell (husband Mick), Raymond Rummell and Lori Sullivan; Grandchildren Kala Sullivan (husband Jeremy McClintock), Matthew Sullivan, Christopher Wise-Presnell (wife Samantha), Patrick Presnell (wife Haley); Great Granddaughters Lillie and Mya McClintock and Irene Presnell; Brothers Fred W. Rummell (wife Elvi) of Houston and George Rummell (wife Dorothy) of Delaware.

Ray considered himself especially fortunate to have had his loving wife Lillie as his loving partner for nearly 60 years. No matter how early he went hunting, fishing or trapping, without fail, Lillie was up and had breakfast ready. She was an integral part of his career at CSUC, always available to help with grading papers and editing his numerous grant-writing projects.

He grew up on a farm in Pennsylvania and at 15 moved to a small college town of California, Pennsylvania. He developed his strong work ethic and life long love of hunting and fishing while living on the farm.

After graduating from high school Ray received an AAS degree at Trinidad State Jr. College. He then served two years in the US Army as a rifle range officer training shooters for sniper duty.

Ray attended the University of Northern Colorado earning his Bachelor and Masters degrees. He completed his doctoral program in Manufacturing Technology at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona in 1970. In 1968, while still working on his doctoral degree, he took a teaching position at CUSC with the assignment of developing a Manufacturing Technology Program. He served as a Professor and Coordinator of the Manufacturing Technology Program in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Technology until he retired in 2005.

In his 37 years at CSUC, Dr. Rummell received over 30 major awards from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), the Foundry Educational Foundation (FEF), the American Foundry Society (AFS), the National Association of Industrial Technology (NAIT) and CSUC.

Ray enjoyed hunting and fishing, particularly with his grandchildren, who called him "Poppy". Everyone enjoyed stories of his many hunting and fishing adventures.

He was also an avid tennis player. Starting at the age of 50, he played the Northern California tennis circuit for 20+ years where he won numerous singles and doubles titles. He continued to play tennis for fun and exercise until shortly before his death.

Ray asks that anyone wishing to do something in his memory should just do something nice for someone and then say "that was for you old man", then continue to do nice things for others for their own enjoyment.

The family requests any donations be made to the W. Ray Scholarship at CSU, Chico. Make checks payable to CSU, Chico and note this is for W.Ray Rummell Scholarship, mail to CSU, Chico Financial Aid and Scholarship Office, 400 West First Street, Chico, CA 95929-0705

Events

FEB **Celebration of Life** 11:00AM

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Family Home

2 Cottage Circle, Chico, CA, US, 95926

Comments



“ I didn't really to know Doc until my last couple of semesters in 2004. Doc was always very kind and did not treat me any differently than anyone else.
I cast a gnome that lived on my grandfather's mantle and I built a cannon that my father treasured.
This past year, I finally made good on a promise I had made to Doc. It took me 15 years to do it but I never forgot.
My condolences to his family and friends. The world seems a little bit different knowing that he's not in it.

Geni McWhorter - February 11, 2020 at 06:26 PM



“ I was incredibly fortunate to be a student of Doc. He was passionate about castings and manufacturing. Everyday the lessons he taught run through the background of my thoughts. He provided our class (05) an incredible foundation for the world of work. I was incredibly sadden to hear about Doc passing. He was an asset not only to all of his students but, to an entire industry. We will miss you dearly!

Gwen Van Steenberge - February 10, 2020 at 06:29 PM



“ The only Father I had.
Very much Loved, Respected and will be Greatly missed
Hey Old Man stay off the sand bars and up there remember who your fishing with,
don't try and take his fishing pole. Love

Terry Sullivan - February 05, 2020 at 04:06 PM



“ Thank you for the kind words. He loved you very much.

W Ray - February 05, 2020 at 07:16 PM



“ I was very saddened to hear about Ray and offer my sympathies to his family. Lillie, I am sure you remember many days and events that Ray and Bill shared. Bill thought the world of Ray and was so delighted at his many accomplishments. As with Bill, there will be only one Dr.Bill Wesley Brown and only one Dr.Ray Rummell. No doubt they are catching up on the latest events. May you be blessed with precious memories. Judith Brown

Judith K Brown - February 04, 2020 at 09:18 PM



“ First, my most sincere condolences to the entire Rummell family, to all of Ray’s close friends, and his family of students, which I am one. I spent three years (1977-80) with “Doc” in what was then called the ITEC (Industrial Technology) program at CSU, Chico. Doc and I had a great bond, which I’m sure wasn’t unique to just me, as Ray was a true “man’s-man” (Ray would insert one of his “humorous” jokes/comment here).

As a young college student away from home, I looked up to Doc for his guidance, his work ethic, and admired his varied outside-of-the-classroom interests. What a fisherman, hunter, tennis player, family man. He owned a cool Ford Mustang...

Ray taught me one of the most practical business lessons I carry with me to this day and apply it on a regular basis. I was privileged to be one of Doc’s classroom aides for two of the three years I spent in his ITEC program. I often wondered why he assigned me so many special projects, all while Doc had other aides to “spread the wealth” among. I asked Doc that very question near the end of my final semester. He replied in a way only Ray could, in his calm and matter-of-fact way, “Well Floyd, you’re getting all of these projects because you’re my laziest student.” My eyes went wide in shock. And in his next breath Ray said, “...and your one of my brightest students as well.” He explained to me that if you want something done in the most efficient and proficient manner, give it to your laziest, but brightest student and they will figure a way to made it happen!” Profound.

I am so darn grateful that Ray and I had an extended telephone visit late last year. I was able to tell him how much he meant to me in my life.

Rest in peace, Doc.
From your laziest and brightest student.
Floyd Jasinski

Floyd Jasinski - February 04, 2020 at 05:28 PM



“ Ellie and I (Lionel Valley) offer our sincere condolences to the Rummell family. My memories were from playing tennis with Ray over many years for the most part. I will always remember his favorite saying when playing - "Going Up" and indeed he did put the ball way up with amazing lobs. I was also surprised to note how little water he would drink during tennis matches - he apparently thought water was for bathing. We will cherish some great memories from a great guy for years to come.

Lionel Valley - February 03, 2020 at 04:26 PM



“ Dear Rummell Family, Please accept my condolences on the passing of Ray. Over the years Ray and I had many enjoyable hours playing tennis with and against each other. I will miss these good times. Ray Hurt

Raymond Hurt - February 03, 2020 at 08:08 AM



“ Doc was one of my favorite prof's. I graduated from CSUC in 1996 from Doc's Manufacturing Technology program. He then became my mentor and chaired my masters program. He encouraged us to take the SME Technologist Certifying test. He would personally mentor us so that we could pass this nationally recognized proficiency exam. He would let us take our finals a week early and he would keep an open tab for us at the Red & Gray (now burnt down) during our normal finals time. His incredible stories of working in the CIA/military intelligence during WW II were awesome! RIP Doc, prof & American Patriot

I am editing this while laughing, Doc was known to tell some good 'fish' stories (we never knew when he was 'fishing' or telling it straight). None of us knew how old he was. In reading his obituary I now learn he would have been under 10 years old during WW II....so his CIA days stories were a heck of a 'fish' tale that we all took hook line & sinker

Stuart Putz - February 01, 2020 at 12:03 PM