



## Roger S. Ford

March 17, 1944 - January 24, 2021

Roger Sumner Ford, age 76, of North Ridgeville, passed away peacefully in his home on January 24, 2021. Born in Akron, he had been a resident of North Ridgeville since 1981. Roger was a self-taught engineer who loved to create, design and build things. He worked in production engineering and management for nearly 30 years at Kirby Company in Cleveland, retiring in 2007.

Roger found peace and beauty in nature, taking regular trips with his wife to Hocking Hills, where Conkles Hollow was their most treasured spot. They also loved spending time at their cabin with dear Tabor Lake friends. Roger served as president of the lake association for several years, helping to take care of his cabin community. In recent years, he and Carol loved driving Route 66 to Phoenix and spending winters there with their daughter. The three were an inseparable trio, and Roger was their anchor.

Roger was a politics and history buff, a music lover, musician and swing dancer. He and Carol loved dancing to big band swing, and his daughter is thrilled that she got him out to jitterbug one last time before the pandemic hit. He played piano and saxophone, sang in several barbershop quartets, and loved singing barbershop with his late father and uncles at family reunions. He cherished his lifelong friendships with his Highland High School classmates. He especially enjoyed sharing memories at their regular get-togethers and making everyone laugh when he played emcee at their reunions. Roger's warm smile, big heart, sage advice, and irreverent sense of humor will be terribly missed.

In addition to Carol, his wife of 48 years, and daughter, Melanie, survivors include his brother, Russell Ford, many dear cousins, and Butchie, a very special rescue dog.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bruce and Annette Ford, his Aunt Truth, and several beloved uncles: Truman, Gene, Byron, George, Wilbur and Marvin.

A private celebration of Roger will be held when loved ones can get together again.

Memorial contributions may be made at <https://www.conservationfund.org/donate/ways-to-give> to help protect the natural places Roger loved, or to the Diabetes Foundation at [www.diabetesfoundationinc.org](http://www.diabetesfoundationinc.org) to help others with this disease.

# Comments

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“ So very sorry to hear of Roger's passing. He was a great guy and always made you smile or laugh. Although we only got to see you both at our reunions, it would seem like just yesterday when we would get together. It was due to his fun personality, wit, and care for his friends. I will always remember Roger, Jim Klesack, et al acting out Macbeth in our high school senior class. Dry ice and all to make the cauldron boil and bubble. I enjoyed Carol's comment about wondering how long it would take for Jim and Roger to get in trouble at their reunion.

Carol, our hearts and prayers go out to you and your daughter on the passing of Roger. Please know he was always loved and will be missed by us. God bless you and comfort you.

Diane & Jim Farkas

**Diane Farkas** - February 23 at 10:35 PM



“ Thank you, Diane, for your memories and wonderful words about Roger. He so loved his Highland classmates. You all were so welcoming to me. I felt a part of your wonderful class and have never laughed so hard at anything as I did with you all. We are still in such shock and your kind words and memories mean so very much. Love, Carol

**Carol Ford** - February 26 at 04:12 PM

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“ Roger and I started first grade together and went all twelve grades and graduated together. He was my acting partner in two cemetery walks in Granger Township. We spent a lot of good times at class reunions with a lot of laughs too. He will certainly be missed! My thoughts and prayers go out to Carol and Melanie. May God give you comfort and peace.

Bert Gifford

**Roberta Gifford** - February 01 at 07:23 PM



“ Thank you so much Bert. I have some wonderful pictures of the cemetery walks and will share with you soon. He loved his Highland classmates...the laughter never stopped at the reunions. Thank you for the thoughts and prayers. Much love, Carol

**Carol Ford** - April 03 at 04:32 PM

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“ Roger was one of those unique individuals who made the people he came in contact with better people. He lit up the room with his warm smile and engaging personality. We would always schedule extra time for his visits so we could laugh(which we did..alot), share stories, hear how Melanie was doing in Arizona and just catch up. He made the world a far better place....We all will miss you!

Dr. Kurt Thomas

**kurt thomas** - February 01 at 09:33 AM

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“ We will never be the same without you, Dad.

**Melanie Ford** - January 30 at 02:38 PM

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“ Bob & Rhonda Kuhl lit a candle in memory of Roger S. Ford



**Bob & Rhonda Kuhl** - January 30 at 11:34 AM



“ Thank you both

**Melanie** - January 30 at 02:38 PM

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“ Melanie and Carol. I am very, very glad he was my cousin. I always love his smiling face and cheerful personality. Then I love his nickname, "Sparky". My deepest condolences to both of you and Butchie and your rescue dog, too, Melanie. My deepest condolences to you, too, Russell.

**Carol Ford** - January 30 at 09:21 AM



“ Thank you, Carol, I appreciate your kind thoughts.

**Melanie** - January 30 at 02:45 PM



“ A lot of people say you can judge a person by how dogs react to them. Roger was no exception to this rule. The first thing that I think about is how much our dog Flynn loved him. Whenever we go outside and Roger would be there, Flynn would flip over on his back and start barking out of excitement to see him. It took all my strength to hold Flynn back so that he didn't pounce on Roger every time we saw him. Roger has been an incredible neighbor and friend these past 20 years and we will miss him dearly.

**Sheila Martinis** - January 29 at 02:12 PM



“ How lucky Butchie was to have such a loving and kind Daddy.

**rose ann hack** - January 29 at 08:07 PM



“ So saddened to learn of my old friend passing. All of our work and business travels together conjure up pleasant memories. It was a privilege to have known Roger.

**Pete Heckes** - January 30 at 11:47 AM



“ Thank you all for sharing these memories and for appreciating my dad.

**Melanie** - January 30 at 02:46 PM