



Ralph Brown Webster

February 5, 1949 - July 24, 2019

Ralph Brown Webster peacefully passed away July 24, 2019 at home. Born to Barbara B. and Robert C. Webster on February 5, 1949 in Cleveland, Ohio, Ralph was a 1967 graduate of Hawken School, and a 1971 graduate of Franklin and Marshall College. After completing his education, Ralph returned to Cleveland where he began a career in banking at Lake County National Bank (Bank One). Prior to retiring, he also worked at First Merit Bank. Ralph served on the Board of Trustees for both the Lake County YMCA (10 years) and the Lake Hospital Foundation (20 years), and was a Vice President of the Friday the 13th Club. He was a member and past President of the Tavern Club, a former member of the Kirtland Country Club, and an award winning member of WABOA. He was also a history buff who had visited more Civil War battlefields than most know exist.

Ralph enjoyed few things more than singing, and for five decades he served as the frontman of Fat City, the rock and roll band he co-founded with his friends and brothers in 1966. The group, which Ralph once dubbed "The World's Oldest Garage Band," has played all over Cleveland, becoming a cultural touchstone for all those who count themselves as friends, fans and groupies. Ralph was a great admirer of Elvis Presley, and he was known on occasion to don an all-white suit that would make the King himself blush.

Most of all, Ralph cherished time spent with loved ones, whether it was

around a campfire near the Chagrin River, on the golf course, or just in the living room at home. He owned a quick smile, a warm laugh, and a rich voice, and he was a gifted storyteller. Christmas Eve was never complete without his rowdy rendition of The Twelve Days of Christmas or his inimitable reading of The Polar Express. Ralph never met a stranger and enriched the lives of all who knew him. He will be missed immeasurably.

Ralph was the adoring husband of Paula (Gehring) Webster for 44 years, the beloved father of Laura W. (Nick) Stockhaus and Matthew C. (Susan Thompson) Webster, and the greatest "Pop" to June and Lucy Stockhaus. He was the brother of John (Kristi) Webster, Harvey (Doris) Webster and Graham (Jeri) Webster, and Uncle Ralph to numerous nieces, nephews, and God children.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents, in-laws Richard and Barbara Gehring, and brother Robert C. (Cynthia) Webster, Jr.

The family will receive friends at a Memorial Service at 2:00pm on Thursday, August 1, 2019 at St. Hubert's Episcopal Church, 8870 Baldwin Road Kirtland Hills, Ohio 44060.

In Lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Parkinson's Boxing Class Department of Aging, 470 Center Street Chardon, OH 44024 or Hospice of Cleveland Clinic, 6801 Brecksville Road Independence , OH 44131.

Arrangements entrusted to the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

Offer condolences at www.brunners.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 1. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Hubert's Episcopal Church
8870 Baldwin Rd
Kirtland Hills, OH 44060
(440) 256-1280

Tribute Wall

PH

“ Dear Paula & Family, Ralph was among my oldest friends - since Malvern Elementary School - and his gracious style and manner will be missed.

Peter Holmes - August 03, 2019 at 03:01 PM

SF

“ Dear Paula and family, although I was saddened to hear of the passing of Ralph, I will always have the best memories of him from our days at Hawken when he blocked for me on the Hawks football team and, of course, as the Lead Singer of our band "The Nomads." He was always so much fun to be around and all of us had the best time together practicing in Hoyt's barn etc...I can feel his presence as I write this!
Rest in peace my friend...you deserve it!

Skip Fiordalis

Skip Fiordalis - July 30, 2019 at 02:02 PM

MT

“ Paula and family,
My deepest and heartfelt sympathy on Ralph's passing. In the time I knew Ralph it was sheer joy. What a wonderful personality who always made me feel welcome. May you feel the love of others and allow that love to carry you thru this difficult time. Rest In Peace Ralphie ..you will be missed!

Maureen Tedesco - July 29, 2019 at 10:58 PM

JH

“ *What a guy, what a voice, what a joy to share time with. Certainly one of the all-time best Executive Vice-Presidents of The Friday the Thirteenth Society. How we often enjoyed the noise drifting across Baldwin Road from that garage back in the woods! He will be missed.*

Josh and Susan Haskell

Josh Haskell - July 26, 2019 at 05:24 PM

ME

“ *A beautiful life, inspiring us all to live fully, laugh loudly and sing often.*

Megan - July 26, 2019 at 05:03 PM

SG

“ *Dear Paula and family, I am so sorry to hear about Ralph's passing!! He was a really good man and will be missed!! May he Rest In Peace! Fondly, Sally Gerboth*

Sally Gerboth - July 26, 2019 at 03:16 PM

BA

Ralph was one of a kind. He leaves behind so many happy memories. I loved spending time with him and Paula. He will be truly missed by all who were privileged to know him. To a life "well lived". Always, Bonnie Anderson

Bonnie Anderson - July 27, 2019 at 01:02 PM

SH

What a guy! I worked with Ralph for many years at Bank One. Loved to hear his beautiful voice and enjoyed his great sense of humor. He will be missed by so many.

Sandie Hess-Horton - July 27, 2019 at 05:29 PM