



## Rowland Alexander Raeburn

November 21, 1927 - March 20, 2018

Rowland Alexander Raeburn, age 90

Rowland Raeburn, a resident of Elizabethtown, Kentucky for the past 27 years, died on March 20, 2018, in an Assisted Living home in Traverse City, Michigan. Rowland was born on November 21, 1927, in Waterbury, CT. Being a man of strong character, humor and compassion, he made many lifelong friends while growing up in Waterbury. The most beloved was Elaine Ruggiero, whom he fell in love with in high school and who, in 1950, became his wife for sixty-seven years.

At sixteen, Rowland graduated from Waterbury High School two years early. He then continued his education at the University of Connecticut where he earned a Bachelor of Science, and later, a Master's of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Between the two degrees, Rowland served in the U.S. Army in New Mexico, where they put his expertise to use. Following his service to his country, he and Elaine returned to Waterbury, Ct. where he began a long, fulfilling career as an engineer, from Chief Draftsman to Chief Engineer. His employment included Anaconda American Brass, Farrel Corporation and McNeil Corporation, involving family moves to Rochester, New York, Akron, Ohio and finally, Elizabethtown, KY. His gift to oversee with both clarity and benevolence placed him in positions of management throughout his adult life.

While in Connecticut and New York, Rowland and Elaine began their family. He was a devoted, always supportive and very loving father to all three children: Joan Holland; Pam Soha (who preceded him in death); and James Raeburn. He is survived by eleven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Holidays, evenings and weekends at home were all about his family life. At times of work related travel, Rowland sent home detailed letters from Europe, Great Britain, Japan, Korea and India. Again, his amiability and good nature nurtured many long lasting friendships overseas.

He was a music enthusiast, with a heart felt passion for Jazz, Dixieland, and Big Band, and was a major fan of Dave Brubeck, the Preservation Jazz Hall Band and Benny

Goodman.

Famous for his friendly nature, Rowland quickly became a friend and neighbor to almost everyone he encountered. He positively affected so many and will be missed by all who knew him.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at St. Mary of Hannah in Hannah, MI on April 3, 2018 with visitation beginning at 10:00 am and an 11:00 am Mass. Immediately following Mass, there will be a catholic burial at Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens. Following the committal service there will be a 1:30 reception at the home of Joan and David Holland.

In lieu of flowers a donation in Rowland A. Raeburn's name can be made to, Habitat for Humanity of Hardin County, 1016 Pear Orchard Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701 or St. James Catholic Church Building Fund, 307 West Dixie Avenue, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

# Events

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**APR** **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

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St. Mary's of Hannah

2912 W. M113, Hannah, MI, US, 49649

**APR** **Mass of Christian Burial** 11:00AM

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St. Mary's of Hannah

2912 W. M113, Hannah, MI, US, 49649

**APR** **Graveside Service** 12:30PM

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Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens

3575 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

# Comments

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“ My husband worked with Rowland at Enprotech in the early 90's. He was very fair manager and a great friend. He was very well respected. Elaine and Rowland were always kind and friendly to everyone. I always enjoyed talking to both of them. Cherri Spalding

**Cherri Spalding** - April 02, 2018 at 06:44 PM

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“ Uncle Roland was one of the nicest men I ever met. He and Aunt Elaine are a testimony to true love. All the time I shared with both, whether by phone or in person, made me .wish we had more time. He will be missed.

**Catherine Henne-Nordby** - April 02, 2018 at 04:56 PM

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“ We have known Row and Elaine since we moved into the Foxfire neighborhood in Elizabethtown in 1996. He was not only a good neighbor, but a kind friend that we enjoyed though out the years. Always willing help and his sense of humor made him a unique and fun person to be associated with. He will be dearly missed. Test in peace my friend.

**Carol and Allen Abel** - April 02, 2018 at 12:15 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Terry Wise** - April 01, 2018 at 08:40 PM

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“ Row and Elaine will forever be in our hearts as more than our friends. Row and I shared so many work related stories and just listening to his life well lived was always simply captivating. You are missed. Rest well. We will speak of you often. We'll see you soon enough. Terry (Wise), Glendale, KY

**Terry Wise** - April 01, 2018 at 08:37 PM



“ We moved into our new homes in Elizabethtown, Kentucky within a week of one another. As next door neighbors to Row and Elaine, we instantly connected and were blessed to be their friends. Row's keen intellect, genuine compassion for others, willingness to learn, eagerness to keep the yard trimmed and mowed, and weeds pulled were just a tiny bit about Row that impressed. His sense of humor, incredible memory, sincere desire to tackle any task, and with boundless enthusiasm, he help prepare hundreds of gourmet dinner parties has left us all with lasting memories. He was a gentleman, a scholar and a dear, loyal friend.

Don and Betty Lou Williams

Don and Betty Lou Williams - April 01, 2018 at 11:43 AM

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“ Row was my father's best friend and my godfather. What more could one ask from a godfather than to be a shining example of kindness, civility, intelligence and humor. My dad called him "a Prince of a Guy" so many times that the mention of his name would cause someone else in the family to say, "a Prince of a Guy," as if that were his title. I loved Row and will miss him. So sorry that I won't be able to attend the service.

Stephen O'Neil - April 01, 2018 at 10:12 AM

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“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Rowland Alexander Raeburn.



March 29, 2018 at 10:33 AM

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“ Rowland and I were first cousins. We grew up in a strong and loving family who cared deeply for each other. Over the years, miles separated us but we had good conversations and shared memories of our childhood on the phone. I will miss that. He was a fine man and I loved him.

Jean Raeburn Robison

Jean Raeburn Robison - March 27, 2018 at 02:23 PM

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“ I had the pleasure of sharing my evenings with Rowland for the past few months. We had some wonderful conversations that I will cherish. Row touched my life and he will truly be missed. My heart is with all of you during this time. One thing I will share is he loved his family. We had some very heart filled conversations the past few weeks and one thing was certain he loved his family. I am playing some Glen Miller for you. Gonna miss you.

**Michelle** - March 24, 2018 at 04:27 PM