

Altoona Mirror

Ralph E. Wilcox

Feb. 8, 1942 – Nov. 28, 2022



Wilcox

Ralph E. Wilcox, 80, of Ocala, Fla., formerly of Altoona, passed away Monday. He was born in Rockville, Conn., son of the late Ralph A. and Mabel (Ellsworth) Wilcox.

On Oct. 13, 1962, he married Linda Lee Spence, who passed away Nov. 19, 2005. On Sept. 1, 2012, he married Mary Michaels, who survives.

In 1960, Ralph entered Alfred State College in Alfred, N.Y., to study diesel technology, graduating in 1962. The same year, Ralph was hired by the Erie Lackawanna Railroad, which began a career that spanned more than 55 years working in the railroad industry, ultimately working for the Erie Lackawanna Railroad, Conrail and then CR Quality Services as a consultant. His career reflected his lifelong love of trains, which began as a child running his Lionel train set around the house. Ralph was also involved in the Big Train Operator Club, serving in various positions on the club's board of directors. Ralph was a volunteer for many years in the steering committee for Tour de Toona and was a Motor Marshall.

Ralph's work for the railroad also fostered a lifelong love of travel. Ralph was proud that he was able to visit all 50 states, and he also visited Europe on two occasions, once for a business trip to Poland, and once to visit London and Paris and take the Eurostar through the Chunnel. He also had the opportunity to visit Japan, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam while he served in the U.S. Navy from 1966-70 on the USS Washoe County and the USS Pickaway.

Ralph's love of travel also manifested itself in his love of motorcycles, which began in the early 1970s. His last motorcycle, a bright-yellow Honda Gold Wing trike nicknamed "*The Honeybee*," took Ralph and Linda, and then Mary, all over the eastern United States. Ralph always loved a good motorcycle ride and was a member of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association.

Ralph was also involved throughout his life in Freemasonry. As a teenager, he joined The Order of DeMolay, and ultimately joined the Scottish Rite receiving the 32nd degree. Throughout his life, Ralph was a member of Lodges in Ohio, California, Pennsylvania and New York, but also visited other Lodges around the world during his travels.

Ralph attended Ocala West United Methodist Church and was a member of Warriors Mark United Methodist Church.

Ralph is survived by his wife, Mary Michaels Wilcox; and two children, Ralph S. Wilcox of Little Rock, Ark., and Lynn Wilcox of Bellefonte. He is

also survived by three stepdaughters: Heather Meek of Morrisdale, Leslie Hammond of Tyrone and Lori Beals of Gap; and seven stepgrandchildren: Devon and Stephanie Hammond, Tony (Kassie) and Michael Beals, and Nik, Archer and Zoey Meek. He is also survived by a sister-in-law, Lucie Spence of Wethersfield, Conn.; several cousins; his cat, Noelle; and beloved dog, Lulu.

Friends will be received from 1:30 until the funeral service at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022, at Ocala West United Methodist Church, 9330 SW 105th St., Ocala, Florida 34481. Burial will occur at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022, at Grove Hill Cemetery, Vernon, Conn.

A memorial service for Ralph will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 9, 2022, at Warriors Mark United Methodist Church, 1840 Centre Line Road, Warriors Mark.

Arrangements are by Baldwin Brothers Funeral & Cremation Society, 11250 SW 93rd Ct. Road, Suite 300, Ocala, Florida.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Warrior's Mark United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 134, Warriors Mark, PA 16877.

To share memories and condolences with Ralph's family, please visit www.baldwincremation.com.
