



Kay Leroy Ruggles

JUN 5, 1932 - MAY 16, 2012



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“A Life of Adventure” Kay LeRoy Ruggles, beloved son, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and friend, passed away peacefully at St. Mark’s Hospital on Wednesday, May 16, 2012, surrounded by his family, just weeks shy of his 80th birthday. Born June 5, 1932 to Virgil LeRoy Ruggles and Emma Lucille Cazier in Pocatello, Idaho. He married Beverly Jane Dallimore on September 20, 1952—later solemnized in the Salt Lake L.D.S. Temple on January 12, 1966. They were to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary this September. He graduated from South High School, Class of 1949 on his 17th birthday. He graduated from the University of Utah in 1953 with a BS in Industrial Design. Following graduation, Kay was commissioned as an ensign to the U.S. Navy on his 21st birthday and then later served as a Lt. Jg USN Gunnery Officer (destroyer). He was deservedly proud of his military service and veteran status. He was a High Priest in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and served in various callings, but he especially enjoyed being ward activities director where he was revered for his creative, elaborate displays and signature decorating style. He was also adept at designing and decorating floats for the Pioneer Day Parades. Kay was a pioneer, inventor and entrepreneur throughout his long and successful career and won many awards and honors. He held numerous patents and designed and developed over 100 products in a wide range of industries, including automobile, space, furniture, window coverings, amusement park and musical instruments, to name only a few. His unique designing style defied labeling and categorizing. He would simply say, “I make things happen.” He was project engineer of the first fiberglass Corvette bodies at Molded Fiberglass, Ohio; partner of Hydroswift Boats; design engineer of Minuteman missiles at Hercules and Thiokol; partner of Associated Design Company (later a division of American Standard), designing and installing fiberglass lavatories for Air Force One (Nixon); owner of Product Group, designing furniture and other products for national companies;



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designed and built cellular blind machines and set up the Salt Lake factory for LouverDrape (later acquired by Levolor); designed, built and installed cellular machines for a Taiwanese company; developed products for Hunter Douglas; and developed amusement attractions as a co-owner of Design Works, Inc. and was the “brainchild” of translucent tubular waterslides, operating under the name of Hydrotube. It was said of him that he was “a Renaissance man and a genius in the area of product design and materials research, with the savvy to figure out how to build almost anything.” Kay was never one to dwell on past achievements, but was truly in his element when another product was being born. He would say his favorite project was “the next one, of course.” He literally worked and was involved with new ideas and projects up until his final breath. His family takes great pride in his legacy and many accomplishments that came from his prolific, innovative mind and seemingly endless supply of energy and creativity. His home office will now be an eerily quiet and lonely place. Kay loved to be with his ever-growing family and especially enjoyed good food (he was a connoisseur), lively conversation and a good laugh. He was a great storyteller and loved to share his life experiences, including many anecdotes from his Navy years and self-described rebellious younger days. He had a multitude of interests, but held a special place for cars, architecture and graphic design. He enjoyed good music and movies. He and his wife, Beverly, enjoyed cheering for the Utah Jazz while watching the games together on television. He traveled widely with his wife and loved Europe, particularly Switzerland. He visited all 50 states. He had a very large and eclectic pen collection that he amassed from his many travels, as well as gifts from family and friends. He was a lifelong learner and a voracious reader, especially enjoying biographies, history and politics. Kay was fiercely independent and truly was a “Renaissance Man”, even designing and building his own casket. He loved his family and took great pride in their accomplishments. He gave his grateful family a special gift, just days before he passed away, when he presented each of them with his oral life history, titled “80 Years of Adventure” which he had been recording over the previous weeks. Thanks, dad—we love you dearly and will miss you! Your passing leaves a tremendous void in our family, but we look forward with great joy and anticipation to our certain and



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eventual reunion. Preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Paul and Lynn; his son, Mark; and grandchildren, Christopher, Stephanie and Michael. Survived by his wife, Beverly; brother, David (Betsy), children, Cary (Patsy), Nancy (Kevin), Carolyn (Mark), Bryan (Suzie), Lisa (Darrin) Bret, 22 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. A celebration of Kay's life will be held on Tuesday, May 22 at the East Millcreek 4th Ward, 3103 East Craig Drive (3600 South) at 11 a.m. Friends and family are invited to a viewing on Monday evening, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the same location and from 9:30-10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, prior to services. Interment at Wasatch Lawn.



Tribute Wall

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BM

Barry & Beverly Malone posted:

Kay, thank you for letting me be a small part of your adventure when I worked with you at the Product Group. Beverly and I so enjoyed our renewed acquaintance the past few years. Beverly, please stay in touch and let us know when you are in So. CA so we can visit. To the entire Ruggles family, we extend our deepest condolences. Barry and Beverly Malone

May 24 at 6:53 AM

JH

Jason Hardman posted:

He was a Great Man and left a fantastic legacy.

May 23 at 2:53 PM

DS

Dianne Sonzini posted:

We just heard of Kay's passing and want to extend our sympathy to Beverly and family. We're so glad we got to know Kay for the short time we were in the same ward. We always looked forward to the ward Christmas parties and the amazing way Kay decorated the cultural hall. He truly was one talented man. Please know we are thinking of you.

May 23 at 7:09 AM

DS

David Smekens posted:

So sorry to hear about the loss of Kay. He was an amazing man. It was my pleasure and privilege to have known him. Our sincerest condolences to the family. Dave Smekens and family <http://www.premierfuneral.com/images/icons/angel.gif>

May 21 at 1:07 PM

BC

Bob & Ruth Carlson posted:

Ruth and I share our memories of working together with Kay and Bev at a Hollister Ship Reunion in San Diego. Good times together with close friends. I served with Kay on the Hollister from 1953 - 56 and I recall when he received notice that his first child was born and how excited he was. We are sorry to hear of his passing and give Bev our condolences. Bob

May 21 at 7:40 AM



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MW

Maddy Wheat posted:

I looked upto my grandpa and loved him so much! He was truly an amazing person and accomplished so many things throughout his life. He will always be remembered and kept close in our hearts

May 20 at 9:49 AM

KM

Karen Campbell Mccoun posted:

The Ruggles family were all special to us as neighbors across the street. Please know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers at this time. We hope it helps to know that we are thinking of you with sympathy. Karen

May 20 at 5:10 AM

RS

Robert L Seely posted:

Please accept my condolence to the family of this very bright and wonderful man. We were friends at Hercules during Minuteman development as Kay hired me as an Engineering Aide. While I am familier with some of Kays accomplishments on Minuteman and his propellant mixing tools and the Ski Gondolas and interest in cars he never told me about the corvette, but Kay was not one to dwell on his accomplishments.

May 20 at 4:04 AM

RB

Ronald Belnap posted:

I was Kay's friend when we grew into teen agers on 8th East. After we grew apart. But memories of Kay and Bob are still part of my found memories. I am pleased that his life was so full of happiness and adventure. Certainly his teens were. My best wishes to Bev and his children and grandchildren and great grandchildren.

May 20 at 3:50 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Kay by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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