

Ralph Dukes
4-28-1928 to 8-15-2018

Ralph Dukes passed away peacefully on Wednesday (Aug. 15, 2018) at Meadows Retirement Community. His family was with him.

Ralph was born April 28, 1928, in Cleveland, Ohio, the son of Casper and Katherine (Grezchowiak) Dukes. He married the love of his life, Shirley Bell Sanglio, on June 20, 1954. She survives.

Together they had four children, who all survive: Jane (Roger) Weed, Amy (Glenn) Smith, John (Beth) Dukes and Laura (Basile) Bischoff. Also surviving are seven grandchildren: Michele (Derek) Stephenson, Elaina Weed; Phillip and Kevin Dukes; Caroline, Lucy and Ella Bischoff; and one great-grandchild, Paityn Stephenson.

Ralph graduated from East Tech High School, then served in the U.S. Navy from 1946 to 1948. He later attended Bowling Green University where he earned his degree in business administration and met his wife, Shirley.

Ralph was a gifted artist and a writer. He loved the Cleveland Indians, painting, music, and crossword puzzles, among other interests. Most of all, he loved his wife and family.

Ralph was an active member of the Unitarian Church in Bloomington.

Ralph was a friendly chap, liked by everyone he met. He was an exceptional man of values, humility, integrity and kindness. He lived by example and always encouraged us to do the same. Until his last moments, he was our teacher of life: of strength, compassion, poise, selflessness and courage.

The empty spot in our hearts will be replaced with years of memories, lessons and laughter. We are grateful for the many years we were blessed to have him in our lives.

We thank Meadows for welcoming our parents into their loving community and extended family. As we helped our Dad prepare for his final journey, they were there for us.

