



Raymond G. Stross, Jr.

July 2, 1930 - October 16, 2020

Loudonville-We mourn the death and celebrate the 90 year life of Raymond G. Stross, who passed peacefully at Albany Medical Center on October 16th, with his wife of 55 years at his side.

Born on a Missouri farm to the late Raymond and Bessie Stross, he was the eldest of 7 children; this led to financial independence at a young age, starting work at age 11 as a farmhand, earning \$1 per day. Later, he worked at a newspaper, first as a carrier and then a typesetter. When work permitted, he was an avid baseball player; he remained a devout Cardinals fan to his death. Scouting was also a pursuit; it awakened in him a great love for outdoor adventures and a curiosity about nature.

After graduating high school, Ray continued on to the University of Missouri (BS), University of Idaho (MS), and finally the University of Wisconsin, earning his PhD in 1958. His research in limnology sparked his love of lakes and their conservation, which continued into retirement, culminating in the publication of a book titled, "Rescuing Ecology".

After completing his PostDoc at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, he

joined the faculty of the University of Maryland for seven years. It was during this time that he met and married the love of his life, Sheila Denon Stross. They started their family and moved to Loudonville, New York; Ray was a professor at SUNY Albany, where he remained until retirement.

He and his wife purchased 70 acres of farmland near Cooperstown, NY and over the course of several decades planted 15,000 trees (with the help of his sometimes reluctant family). After the trees on the farm matured, he harvested the logs and built a log cabin. To pass on his concern for our earth to the younger generation, he instituted an annual Shaker Road Elementary ceremony where, with the assistance of daughter Melissa's second grade class, he would plant a young tree on school grounds.

Ray loved to travel; in his bachelor days, his adventures included motorcycling from Missouri to Washington State on his way to Alaska for a job with the fisheries and wildlife department. Years later, family vacations were spent camping across the US, driving through Europe, even venturing into Canada and Mexico, and (as a college graduation present) walking across England with his daughter Melissa. At the age of 40 he learned to fly and purchased his own single engine plane. After retirement, he and his wife filled dozens of photo albums with memories from their trans-continental drives, including Monument Valley, bird sanctuaries along the west coast, and Ray's beloved giant redwoods.

Ray is survived by his wife; daughters Margaret E (Anthony) Thomas and Melissa A Stross; predeceased by son Adam Blair; Loving Grandfather of Elizabeth Rose and Evan Anthony Thomas.

Brother of Genevieve (Earl) Kennedy, Ralph Stross, Loreda Brown.
Predeceased by the late Clarence Stross (late Judy), David, and Arthur Stross (late Kay); brother-in-law of Carol Stross; Ray is also survived by many nieces, nephews, friends, and adoring grandpups Daisy and Kirby.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend his Funeral Mass Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 5:00 pm at St. Pius X Church, Loudonville, NY. Please enter the church only from the Main doorway; masks and social distancing are required; church ambassadors will be available to help with seating and questions; and please attempt to arrive before 4:45 pm.

A recording of the mass will be posted under “funeral recordings” one hour after the ceremony ends: <https://www.stpiusxloudonville.org/funerals/>

The Rite of Committal will be held at St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands on Thursday, October 22 at 10:00 am.

Memorial contributions may be made to Save the Redwood League or the American Heart Association.

For information, or to leave a message for the family please visit McveighFuneralHome.com

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

48 Cemetery Ave
Menands, NY

Previous Events

Service

OCT **21**. 5:00 PM (ET)

St. Pius X Church
23 Crumitie Rd
Loudonville, NY 12211
(518) 462-1336

Graveside

OCT **22**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Agnes Cemetery
48 Cemetery Ave
Menands, NY

Tribute Wall



“ *Raymond G. Stross, Jr.*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *To the members of the Stross family: I send the deepest sympathy on the passing of Ray. I worked with him for many years at the University at Albany in the department of biological sciences and his students held him in the highest regard. I did not know that he built his own log home and was a pilot. He had the highest regard for his research work and passed that enthusiasm to his students: the mark of a good teacher. May your memories bring you comfort at this time. Regards, Anne Boehm, West Sand Lake NY*

Anne Boehm - October 27, 2020 at 11:11 AM



“ *Mrs. Stross, Meg and Melissa,
I am so sorry about the loss of your husband and father. He was an amazing person. I think of you all very often, as I think of Adam and miss him every day. I am sending you prayers for healing, peace and comfort.
Warmly,
Maria Spagnola (class of 1988)*

Maria Spagnola - October 20, 2020 at 08:41 AM



Sheila, I am sorry to hear of Ray's passing. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Rick & Meg Eckhardt

Rick Eckhardt - October 20, 2020 at 10:02 AM

SM

Melissa, my prayers are with you and your family. Your dad sounds like an amazing man.

Sue Mahigian - October 20, 2020 at 11:33 AM

JH

*Melissa, Margaret and Sheila,
I am so sorry about the loss of your Dad and husband. He was an amazing individual who was so bright and enjoyed life. I used to enjoy having him come in to school and share his adventures with the class. When he used his "large vocabulary " Melissa and I both knew the students didn't understand, you would roll your eyes. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Jo-Anne Hines*

Jo-Anne Hines - October 20, 2020 at 12:18 PM

BB

Sheila, Meg and Melissa - So sorry to hear about the passing of Ray. He brought such adventure and love to your family. Your lives would have been so different if he hadn't been a part of them. Sheila you did good picking Ray as your life partner:) You all have so many wonderful memories to keep you company in the years to come. We are thinking of you and hoping the memories bring you joy and comfort.

Bill and Mary Buckley

Bill and Mary Buckley - October 21, 2020 at 12:35 PM

PT

Melissa, I am sorry to hear of your father passing away. I still remember him coming to Keith's class and having a conversation with him. He was very accomplished and a joy to be around.

*Take care.
Penny Tallman*

Penny Tallman - October 24, 2020 at 11:03 AM

DB

*Sheila, I am very sorry to learn of Ray,s passing.
We attended grade school and high school at St Peter Parish in St Charles, Mo. We were best of friends and bummed together while in high school.*

Ray had a great professional career which I am sure he was very proud. All of his old friends in St Charles were proud of his accomplishments and contributions to nsture and the environment.

Dallas Barteau - October 27, 2020 at 06:04 PM