



Carl Roy Ruzicka

July 25, 1946 - April 18, 2021

Carl Roy “Zeke” Ruzicka, age 74, of St. Augustine, Florida passed away on April 18, 2021 at the Bailey Family Center for Caring of natural causes. He had been visited and comforted by his wife and son. Zeke was born and lived most of his life in Columbus, Ohio. After graduating from Pleasant View High School, Zeke began working in sales. His large stature and personality shined as he worked with his customers. He owned his own business in copier and office machines, bookending this career in residential real estate. His integrity, warmth, and charisma made most of his customers close friends.

The consummate “west sider”, most of his family and friends described him as bigger than life. His family came first, and he took considerable pride in being both a father and coach to younger people. This was his greatest joy. An avid sports fan and participant, he became the national champion in the Master’s Division Bench Press at age 49.

In 2008, Zeke moved to St. Augustine and started his own business with Fish Window Cleaning. Soon thereafter, he met his wife, and together they built their dream home surrounded by nature and water. He loved spending time at the beach, fishing, and was an avid reader in his later years.

He is preceded in death by his father, Carl Ruzicka; his mother, Lois Ruzicka; and his sister, Karen Ruzicka. He is survived by his wife, Donna Ruzicka of St.

Augustine; his son, Jason Ruzicka of Spokane, Washington; and his sister, Sandy Wooldridge, of Tuscon, Arizona; as well as his wife's children, Josh Behrens of Austin, Texas and Heather Behrens, of Urbana, Ohio.

A formal service will not be held. We ask that you please celebrate his life with your loved ones. Toast and honor the big guy that we all loved. The family requests that should you choose, a donation be made to the charity of your choice.

St. Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Carl Roy Ruzicka*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - April 22, 2021 at 03:38 PM

JM

We will miss you 🌍❤️ Rest In Peace

jim and judy muir - April 23, 2021 at 03:56 PM

D(

Aww Zeke.... you you my buddy and you will be so missed. Rest in a peace.

Duanna. (Du) - April 23, 2021 at 10:35 PM



Beautiful and loving tribute. Rest in Heavenly Peace.

Paula Christine - April 24, 2021 at 05:11 PM

TJ

Rest In Peace old friend

tom jester - April 24, 2021 at 05:49 PM

SB

“ *Junior high school. Square dancing. I loved having Zeke as my partner. He was so handsome and strong! I hope he had a good life with many people to cherish his memory.*

Sandy Hauth Burkeen - April 24, 2021 at 02:55 PM

SU

“ I grew up almost next door to the Ruzicka family. I remember as a young boy him lifting weights and usually had many friends there to watch. We played tag with the neighborhood kids, took rides in his fathers truck filled with laughing kids. He’s a classy guy, loved by all and will be missed and never forgotten! RIP. Susie Pitt Hauser

susie - April 23, 2021 at 04:48 PM

AE

“ There are many well wishes for Donna at this sorrowful time; many who have voiced their compassion but who will not appear on this website. They shared grand memories of Zeke through the years. He enjoyed attending high school reunions and seemed to make every effort to greet "everyone" in attendance. It was just his natural way of interacting with classmates that made people feel special.

When we had our class newsletter, Reflections West '64, often his contribution was from a cartoon character "Old Zeke". Laughter came easy for him and he loved to share it.

May God's spirit be close to Donna, his son and His sister, Sandy. We join you in missing this fine man. Anna Mae (Kline) England -- West High School '64

Anna Mae (Kline) England - April 23, 2021 at 03:24 PM

SA

Thank you Anna, I just saw this, you are very kind.

Sandy - October 04, 2021 at 12:05 AM

HM

“ I new Zele since our High School days! He was bigger then life!

Hank Martensen - April 23, 2021 at 02:31 PM

BT

“ Carl was an absolute West Side legend. A Man among men. He was larger than life. One of my favorite memories is when Jason and I were moving out of our freshman dorm, Zeke said he would rent a small U Haul to load our stuff in. We'll, in true Zeke style he rolled up in the biggest U Haul they had. That thing was knocking branches off trees. Limbs crashing all over the place. Another time Zeke came down to Oxford to move some of Jason's stuff. Jason was out of town so I helped him. Either he was in Sue's car, or she had borrowed his (I cant remember), but she had left a fast food cup with some iced tea in it. He went to pick it up to throw it away and it had soaked through the bottom. Yep. Iced tea all over him and the car. He didn't even really get mad. Just kinda laughed it off. I don't recall ever seeing him get mad or angry around us. RIP big fella. We will miss you, and never forget you.

Barry Turvy - April 23, 2021 at 01:04 PM

PR

“ There are so many memories I can't begin to pick out just one. The one that he always teased me about was at the bean dinner on a ride and he kept rocking the Ferris wheel and I was afraid of heights. He laughed and then he'd make me laugh until I peed my pants. He told everyone that story forever. He was a great person and a treasure to know. Rest peaceful my friend. I love you. Penny
“Post” Replogle

penny replogle - April 23, 2021 at 12:38 PM



“ 15 files added to the album LifeTributes



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - April 22, 2021 at 03:35 PM

LM

We will never forget that smile and our memories ❤️❤️

linda mcdermott - April 23, 2021 at 09:30 AM

JH

I, too, thought highly of Zeke as a Great All-Around Guy

Zeke was, actually, a part of my little-girl childhood.

We were "alley-neighbors"

Zeke lived on Hilltonia Avenue and I lived the-next-street-over (westward) on Wrexham Avenue.

We attended West Mound Elementary School, Hilltonia Junior High School and West High School together.

At all our WHS Reunions, Zeke liked to reminisce how he "taught me to run f~a~s~t." We would meed in "our" alley and practice running. 'Not sure how this game began but it lasted for several years. I think we started running in First Grade.


Which was really only a matter of Zeke taking-my-hand as we would run together. 'FAST .. yes .. over all those little bits of gravel!

I was super-short for my age, then, (as now) and Zeke was always really tall for his age.

I think Zeke liked the idea of taking-care-of a small person!

I never Ran Track but I could, indeed, run fast-ahead of a lot of boys while growing-up!!!

Zeke loved sharing those long-ago tall-tales with me at our 10-year/20-year/30-year WHS reunions

When we "graduated" from West Mound Elementary to Hilltonia Junior High School, I had moved (westward) a few blocks to Suncrest Drive which was closer to our newly-built junior high school. Zeke, along-with others he would pick-up/attract along-the-way, would pass my house and I would join the group. For three-years, a lot of adolescent-chatter and infectious-laughter would ensue. Good Times and lots of Smiling Faces 

My mother thought a lot of Zeke, too. Courteous and polite boys sure-made a lasting Good Impression on parents wwaayyy back in those days.

And ... because Zeke, as a young kid, could comfortably talk with adults, he was a favorite with many of my friends' parents as well.

In fact so-much-so .. and, this is probably gonna be TMI - too much

information

When my girlfriends and I carelessly and neglectfully left a pack of cigarettes on top of my kitchen stove (we were in the 9th Grade) to be spotted by my eagle-eyed mom, I blamed Zeke. I explained ('lied!) they were good-natured Zeke's pack-of-smokes, knowing my mom would not get mad at "wonderful" mannerly/polite Zeke!!!

Tall/Dark-'n'-Handsome (and, blameless!), Zeke remained a good/good solid friend during those FUN teenage-years and for many years beyond high school.

'Remembering and thinking of "always-smiling" Zeke with many/many lovely, fond, Fine Memories

sending Blessings and heartfelt sympathy to Zeke's Family, jeannie sterling hobbs (class of '64).

Jeannie Sterling Hobbs - April 23, 2021 at 01:46 PM

SE

Zeke was a great friend and role model for many.

We had many great fishing adventures and ball games together with myself and Lee.

You will always be remembered and loved.

Steve Evans

steve evans - April 28, 2021 at 11:10 AM