



Fritz Roland Nilsson

November 26, 1924 - February 21, 2014

Fritz Roland Nilsson, 89, died at 10:20 a.m. on Friday, February 21, 2014 at Rosewood Care Center in Alton. He was born November 26, 1924 in Svano, Sweden the son of the late Johan Nilsson and Sofia Vilhelmina Vallin. Four brothers and six sisters preceded him in death. He served in the Swedish Air Force during WWII. He retired from Boeing in 1983. Roland had two loves in his lifetime: Barbara Lee Henderson who he married August 29, 1953 in Alton and she preceded him in death on December 8, 1980; and his loving companion for the last 30 years, Molly Hall of Godfrey. While attending the University of Michigan he won six Big Ten Conference championships in the shot put and five event championships at the Penn Relays. He represented Sweden in the Summer Olympics of 1948 and 1952. Surviving are two sons; Craig Nilsson (Ann) of Jerseyville and Eric Nilsson (Connie) of Jerseyville, three grandchildren; Justin Nilsson, Ned Nilsson and Hallie Nilsson. Besides his wife he was preceded in death by a son; Ned Nilsson. A memorial open house will be scheduled at a later date. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to The Ned Nilsson Scholarship fund at Alton High School.

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ *Fritz Roland Nilsson*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Fritz Roland Nilsson*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *Eric and family,*

So sorry for your loss.

Kathy Roemmel - March 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *My thoughts are with Craig and Eric's families. I immediately went back in time when I heard about your Dad. I went to Minnesota and time spent with my family and yours . Rue and Lena and your family will always be in my heart. The memories are the only things any of us will take with us and I have many from that time of life. Thinking of you, Bob & Mary Sue Norman*

Bob & Mary Sue Norman - February 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ Roland had a good life together with Molly and a close relationship to his and Molly’s children and their families. We have many wonderful memories from our visits in Alton and Jerseyville where we have stayed with the whole Nilsson family. The hospitality that we have met is huge and warm, and we have always felt very welcome.

Roland was remarkably alike his big brother John (1903-1989), our Papa, grandfather and great grandfather. He has until now been the living link to John for us. They both had a sharp sence of humour and they were both strong men in mind and body. Roland was really a big man physically, but he spread warmth and comfort around him. He didn’t worry about the little things but lived his life here and now. When problems arose, he dealt with them in due course of time.

Despite more than sixty years away from Sweden, he still spoke Swedish - with a distinct northern accent. He would sing Swedish songs as "Tjo vad det var livet i holken" and was always eager to learn the Swedish words for things that did not exist in the fifties, like computers.

We will miss Roland very much. He came to be a very special and dear relative to all of us.

Love, Monika, Lotta, Staffan, Rasmus and Jakob.

Lotta Girsansson - February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ A true gentleman. We were so lucky to have know him. Thoughts and prayers to Craig and Eric and their families.

Bob & Mary Nickell - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Mr Nillson, he was a great guy and will be missed by many. Thoughts and Prayers are being sent your way.*

Jaime Pfeifer - February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ *Dear Molly,*

Sending my condolences to you at this time. You were such a good companion with Nils, you were a blessing for each other.

God Bless You-

Ann Weigler - February 24, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ *Peg Dubbelde has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.*

Peg Dubbelde - February 24, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *My sympathy to the family*

Dave Wickenhauser - February 24, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ KÄra kusiner och Molly

Vet bara att det Är med ett tungt hjÄrta jag sÄga adjÄ till farbror Roland. Jag Är sÄ tacksam Äver att ha Äterigen kontakt med er alla. Jag lÄrde mig sÄ mycket frÄn honom om vÄr familj hemma i Sverige. Jag kommer att sakna hans berÄttelser om livet pÄ SvÄnÄ och nÄr han var pÄ vÄg till U av M. Jag kommer sÄkert att sakna hans rÄst och humor. KÄrlek till alla ... Din kusin Kevin

Kevin Holmstrom - February 23, 2014 at 12:00 AM