



Ralph H. Baahlmann

May 5, 1953 - November 17, 2014

Ralph H. Baahlmann Jr., 61, died at 3:22 a.m. on Monday, November 17, 2014 at Alton Memorial Hospital in Alton, IL. He was born in St. Louis, MO on May 5, 1953 the son of Dr. Ralph Baahlmann Sr. and Virginia “Ginny” (Gangloff). After graduating from Marquette Catholic High School in Alton, Ralph attended Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas where he was elected freshman class president. During his sophomore year Ralph was a TV Camera operator and hosted the campus television show. Seeking work in TV news Ralph transferred to Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville in 1973 to focus on mass communications for a career in broadcast journalism. In 1975 Ralph trained to become an EMT-A. He was certified in Illinois and the National Registry of emergency medical technicians. He worked at GENT Funeral Home in Alton and later Marks Mortuary in Wood River where he worked the ambulance in addition to his other duties at the funeral homes. It was during his service at GENT Funeral Home when Ralph met Mrs. Dallas M. Burke who was Illinois first female coroner. Dallas appointed Ralph as a volunteer deputy coroner in 1976. In 1984 Dallas hired Ralph as Madison County’s first paid deputy. Two years later he was hired full time and was appointed as chief deputy coroner. In addition to two longtime stints as chief Deputy for Dallas Burke and later Stephen P. Nonn. Ralph was a field training officer, shift supervisor, chief investigator and evidence supervisor. Ralph completed the basic death investigators course at University of Missouri St. Louis Medical school. He later became a board certified diplomat of the

American board of medical legal death investigators; Inc. Ralph was a 17 year investigator for the major case squad of greater St. Louis, working with Mrs. Burke and successfully negotiated the Illinois Police Protective contract and benevolent association. He served as the PB & PA union's first president. In addition to his work with the Coroner's office, Ralph was a 20 year member of the Alton Exposition Commission, was a deputy registrar for the Madison county clerk's office to register voters. He served on the Alton Civil Defense Board in the late 1970's and was a 25 year member of Twin Rivers Search and Rescue, where he was president for 12 years. He was a notary public for 22 years. He was a regular speaker at various schools around the county for decades. Ralph was a 4th degree member of the Alton Knights of Columbus council 460, the Alton-Wood River sportsman's club, Wood River Moose, Madison County Police Association, Illinois Coroner's and Medical Examiners Association and the Police Benevolent and Protective Association of Illinois. He was a member of St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Godfrey. He is survived by his life partner; Jerry Nailor of Godfrey, two sisters, Barbara M. Boyd (Dr. Tobin Boyd) of Alton, Nancy E. Reese (Tom) of Alton and three brothers, Mark G. Baahlaman of Alton, Matthew L. Baahlmann (Teri) of Godfrey and John L. Baahlmann (Nancy) of Brighton, and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents. Visitation will be from 4:00-8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19, 2014 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton. A funeral mass will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 20, 2014 at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Godfrey with Father Steve Pohlman officiating. Private family burial will be at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Godfrey. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society or St. Ambrose School Endowment.

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ *Ralph H. Baahlmann*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Ralph H. Baahlmann*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *Jerry I just found out today about Ralhy*

Dan Skaggs - December 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Jerry just found out today about Ralph I am sorry to hear of your loss.*

Dan Skaggs - December 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *I had worked with Ralph at Marks Mortuary (1983 - 1985); I remember him always being in good cheer, always smiling. I counted him among my closest friends, but unfortunately, over the decades since those early days, we had lost touch with each other. Learning of his passing saddens me greatly. I pray you find comfort in these dark days without his charming smile.*

Mark - November 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our Deepest Sympathy to the Baahlmann Family.*

Edward Mondt - November 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ *Ralph was a good man and a great person to work with during my days as a Post-Dispatch reporter in Madison County. He will be dearly missed. My sympathy to his friends and family.*

Robert Kelly - November 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ *I went all the way through St. Ambrose & Marquette with Ralph. He was a great guy, and always a lot of fun. I did not realize Ralph had experienced so much since we all graduated. What a list of accomplishments! My thoughts and prayers go out to Mr. Nailor and all of Ralph's family and friends. May God comfort you all in the loss of one so loved.*

Mary Wille-Brand - November 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ *What a shock to learn of Ralph's passing. Our deepest sympathy to the family and to Jerry. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Carolyn and Matt Kasten - November 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *Although I will not be able to attend the services I would like to extend my sincere condolences to Ralph's Family and friends. Rest in peace my dear old friend. You will be missed.*

*Mark Hammon
2232 Lilly St.
Lake Charles, LA 70601*

Mark Hammon - November 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *Our prayerful remembrance of Ralph, our neighbor and friend. It was always edifying to see Ralph and Jerry working on decorating and other projects on our street. Ralph will be missed.*

Carl & Ruth Muckler - November 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM