



Walter E. Malmer

July 14, 1933 - April 15, 2018

Frankfort - Planning an elaborate champagne tasting until the last weeks of his life, Walter E. Malmer, 84, died April 15 after a long illness.

He loved watercolors, quilts, sculpture, pocket watches, railroad uniform buttons, Kentucky, James Taylor, the Dixie Chicks, the pre-Trump GOP, bouillabaisse, garlicky Polish sausage, country ham, and singing "God Bless America" any time the mood took him.

He leaves behind a host of hungry squirrels, cardinals, blue jays and raccoons who congregated outside his kitchen window daily.

Mr. Malmer was a colorful figure: one of the first in Frankfort to have a phone installed in his car in the 1970s. He relished planning exotically themed parties with the Frankfort Gourmet Club. A bon vivant, he wore bright shirts and ties, had more shoes than most women, and took great pleasure in food, wine, candlelight, and flowers. He taught his children to enjoy life, especially music, food and travel.

He was born in Youngstown, Ohio, graduated from Kent State University with two degrees, married his college sweetheart, and joined the Air Force as a fighter pilot and flight instructor between the Korean War and Vietnam. A charter member of the Home Builders Association of Frankfort, he served as president three times, was elected president of the state association, and became a Life Director of the National Association of Home Builders. He built hundreds of homes and apartments around the Bluegrass, including RiverBend and Thistleton.

He is survived by his brothers Michael of Louisville, Colo., and Ralph (Marcia) of Canfield, Ohio; three children, Ann O'Neill (Michael), Victoria Malmer (Paul), and Stephen; and his ex-wife Sally Malmer Wilbraham. He has two grandchildren, and a great-grandchild. He also is survived by his long-time companion, Joyce Riddle.

He asks that you lift a glass in his memory and in lieu of flowers, consider an act of kindness: call a distant friend or relative, or visit a nursing home or someone homebound.

If you'd like to receive details of his upcoming life celebration, email flavors2go+walter@gmail.com (dot com)

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home.

Comments



“ A more conventional obituary

Walter E. Malmer, 84, died last week after a long illness. He spent 40+ years building homes and apartments all over Frankfort, including Tierra Linda, Thistleton, Indian Hills, The Meadows, Hawk's Nest, and RiverBend. His son Stephen worked alongside him for more than 20 years. Mr. Malmer relished music, art, fine food, and world travel. Born in Youngstown, Ohio, he received two degrees from Kent State University, where he was a member of Delta Tau Delta and the ROTC. He served in the U.S. Air Force, teaching fighter pilots to fly. He married his college sweetheart, and they lived mainly in Laredo, Texas, during his military service. In architecture school, he had focused on affordable housing. So when he left the Air Force, he was recruited to move to Frankfort to introduce Veterans Administration-backed home loans, and build qualifying homes for veterans' families. He served as a deacon at South Frankfort Presbyterian Church. He was a charter member of the Frankfort Home Builders Association and elected president three times. He was president of the Home Builders Association of Kentucky in 1982-83. He was a Life Director of the National Association of Home Builders. He is survived by his brothers Michael of Louisville, Colo., and Ralph (Marcia) of Canfield, Ohio; three children, Ann O'Neill (Michael), Victoria Malmer (Paul), and Stephen; and his ex-wife Sally Malmer Wilbraham. He has two grandchildren, and a great-grandchild. He also is survived by neighbor and friend Joyce Riddle. In lieu of flowers, consider an act of kindness: call a distant friend or relative, or visit a nursing home or someone homebound.

victoria malmer - April 27, 2018 at 05:49 PM



“ Mr. Malmer was colorful indeed ... and quite the gentleman, with an infectious laugh as well. He loved life and all its offerings and deserved every accolade bestowed upon him during his tenure on this earth. May all those that knew his love carry on his tradition of enjoying life to its fullest. RIP dear Walter!

Anne Winn Vansant - April 23, 2018 at 10:12 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Walter Malmer



Victoria Malmer - April 22, 2018 at 05:15 PM