



Roger R. Boelio

June 14, 1946 - July 29, 2012

Roger R. Boelio, of Huntington Woods, passed away on July 29th after an 8-month battle with cancer. Born in Detroit, he was 66 years old at the time of his death. Service to family, community, country, and company were central to Mr. Boelio's life. He retired from General Motors in 2008 after 30 years with the firm, where he served as senior project manager and staff attorney in GM's worldwide real estate operations. Mr. Boelio's contributions to GM were often recognized, and in 1985 he was honored with the Chairman's Award for selecting and securing the Saturn plant site in Spring Hill, TN. Mr. Boelio received a JD from Wayne State University, an MA degree from the University of Detroit, and a BA from Michigan State. After graduating from Wayland Academy in Beaver Dam, WI, in 1964, Mr. Boelio joined the U.S. Army and rose to the rank of Spec 5. His Army service sparked a life-long love for international travel. Stationed first in the U.S. Canal Zone Panama and then in the Republic of China Taiwan, he learned Spanish and Mandarin Chinese, the latter which he subsequently used during business trips to the People's Republic. Army and GM travel eventually took Mr. Boelio to 32 countries on 6 continents. Mr. Boelio was also a dedicated member of the Huntington Woods Volunteer Fire Company, and in 2012 was recognized in a proclamation from that city for his 26 years of service. He was most proud, though, of his four children. He is survived by two daughters, Elizabeth Packebusch Matthew, of Silver Spring, MD, and Katherine Boelio, of Huntington Woods, and two sons, Richard Boelio, of Chicago, IL, and Justin Boelio, of New York, NY; his sister,

Jane Talia Makram of Farmington Hills; his brother, David Boelio Marsha, of Galway, NY; and his dear friend, Sandy Gabel, of Harbor Springs, MI. The visitation will be held Thursday 1-9 p.m. and service Friday 10 a.m. at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W Eleven Mile Road 4 blocks E of Woodward, Royal Oak. Mr. Boelio will be interred in the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI on Monday 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation or a charity of choice. Please share your memories at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

Tribute Wall

MS

“ *Lu and I send our sympathy and love to the Boelio family.*

Marc Staenberg - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ *Rest in peace Roger.*

Craig Lanham - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ *I am saddened to hear of Roger's passing. I enjoyed working with Roger at GM and I will miss him. My condolences to his family.*

Gilbert Chang - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ *On behalf of the Huntington Woods Volunteer Fire Company it was an honor and pleasure to serve with Roger. Roger, in addition to his tremendous dedication to our community and this Fire Company, made unique and valuable contributions toward our efforts. Every year Roger took it upon himself to design and decorate our fire trucks for the 4th of July Parade. Roger was also responsible for all of our displays at our annual Open House event. We consider ourselves fortunate to have had Roger part of our Fire Company and privileged to have had him as part of our lives.*

Bill Cudney - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ All of us at the Huntington Woods Department of Public Safety are greatly saddened by Roger's passing. Roger was a valued 26 year member of our Volunteer Fire Company and a true gentleman. We offer our sincere condolences to all of Roger's family, friends and associates.

Steve Fairman - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ Jane, Sorry to hear about the loss of your brother. My prayers go to you and the family. God bless you all. Rest in peace, Roger

Ela Spieszny - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LE

“ To Roger's Family, I send my condolences to Roger's family. I am a double cousin to Vivian. My mother and her mother were sisters and my father and her father were brothers. After Vivian's parents passed away, my father became Vivian's guardian. I thought of Vivian as a sister and loved her dearly. She faithfully brought Roger and his siblings to visit family in Iowa. I remember one time when Roger came to visit our home in Hubbard, Iowa, and found some old oak wall telephones in our basement. He was fascinated with the phones and was thrilled when my husband, Floyd, sent the phones home with him to examine. I understand that his sense of curiosity lasted a lifetime. Recently, I have appreciated his phone calls and letters. I am sorry that he didn't get in the visit to Florida that he had anticipated. I'm sending my thoughts and prayers to Roger's family. Lucille Beneke Ellson

Lucille Ellson - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ *Very saddened to hear of Roger's death. He was a key team member and leader of many, if not most, of the major GM real estate projects of 80's and 90's. Often understated but always influential. One to be counted on for thoughtful, considered advise. My sincere condolences to his family.*

Ed Risdon - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ *Jane Sorry to hear about the loss of your brother. I know he had been through a lot. How kind of you to devote your time and effort to help him in his time of need. There truly is a special place in heaven for people like you and Macram. If I can possibly make it for the service I will be there. Sorry again to hear of his death.*

Rick Assenmacher - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *I really enjoyed working with Roger at GM. He always had something refreshing to say, and always impressed me with his wealth of knowledge on a variety of topics. I will miss him.*

Bruce Mangrum - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *I first met Roger Rog in 1997 as I began to forge a friendship, and at this point a brotherhood, with both Richard and Justin. Upon introductions, Rog gave me the guided tour of the house, apologizing profusely for the state of affairs, specifically the stairs which had been stripped of their laminates..... He had recently moved in and it was next on his list. 15 years later – the stairs remain bare – some would frown upon this disorder, I took notes; Life Lesson – Don't sweat the small stuff. Thanks Rog - you will be missed!*

Samuel Schey - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ My deepest condolences to Roger's family. I felt honored to work with him at GM for many years, beginning in the early 1980s researching the Spring Hill, TN, site for the Saturn Plant. He was a very kind, very special man and I am saddened to read of his passing. Rest in peace, Roger. Sue Petre

Suzanne Petre - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ I was privileged to know Roger through the Huntington Woods Fire Company. Persons would join the Fire Company for many reasons such as a stepping stone for a career or for status. Roger was there because he cared about the safety of his community. I'll always remember watching him wake up during our Sunday morning meetings. I am so very saddened by the news of his death. His many talents and accomplishments reflect how lucky we were to be the benefactors of his experience and wisdom.

Keith Kramer - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ i knew Roger in HS & thought highly of him.

Lowell Morgan - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ I was Roger’s next door neighbor for a number of years on Talbot. In that time Roger & I acquired one of those “over the backyard fence” neighbor/friend relationships. I enjoyed the many talks we had about his family, current events’, his travels for GM, the military, the community & of course the various seasonal conditions of our yards. Roger’s stories consisted of great detail & kept my interest most of the time. We also enjoyed a number of 4th of July parades together...He’d bring the bagels/juice & the chairs. Even though he was a private person he was a good neighbor & had a kind/caring heart. He was one of those neighbors who looked out for my mother & me as I was her care taker. He loved & found purpose in being a volunteer fire fighter with HW. I will miss him and our conversations. We’ve lost one of the good ones. My heart & thoughts go out to all of Roger’s family.

Judy Pourcho - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Roger and I were friends for fifty-four years. He welcomed me when I was the new kid arriving at Jane Addams Elementary in the middle of sixth grade. We shared an apartment at MSU one year. This was before he began raising snappers. Roger cooked a lot of good Chinese food that year, and yes, his snoring was indeed legendary. Over time, we would meet only occasionally, usually for lunch in downtown Royal Oak, but conversations were always easy, fresh, interesting, and thoughtful. He cared very much about his country and community, and above all, he loved his children. Roger, thank you for being my friend. Dick Borden

Dick Borden - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Roger and I were apartment-mates for three years at MSU. He learned to cut his own hair, and raised snapping turtles. His snoring was legendary. I know all his friends and family realize what a unique and talented individual he was, and I will add my appreciation to theirs. I'll miss you Rog.

Dan Frushour - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ Roger and I were boyhood friends. I remember with fondness going to Greenfield Village with him, and later as apartment mates at MSU. I bet Chomp and Brutus are waiting for you. Farewell.

Keith Pollok - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ I first met Roger and Justin at Boy Scout Camp many years ago. Roger snored all night long and kept me up. This started a very good friendship with a fine man, good Father, and everyone who knew him, will miss him. Justin has some very big shoes to fill. Alfred Bernstein

Alfred Bernstein - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM