



Roger W. Esker

January 25, 1937 - July 14, 2024

Roger Wiley Esker died July 14, 2024, with family by his side.

Roger was born on January 25, 1937, to Eugene Esker and Marguerite Meyers Esker in Norwalk, Ohio where he discovered his lifelong passion for steam engine locomotives after listening to stories of his grandfathers' adventures.

He met his sweetheart, Kay Elizabeth Stephens, shortly after graduating from St. Paul High School in 1955 while "buzzing the ave" in nearby Sandusky. He then earned his bachelor's degree in physical science at Bowling Green University, followed by a marriage to Kay on Independence Day, 1959.

Life became a whirlwind of new jobs and new towns as Roger built his career and he and Kay grew their family. Roger taught physical science at Eastern High School in Lansing, Michigan, then worked at Hinde & Dauch in Sandusky. In 1977, Roger relocated to Indiana to work with Ford Motor Co. He and his family landed in Hagerstown where they planted roots and formed lasting friendships. After retiring from Ford/Visteon in 1998, Roger enjoyed monthly lunches with his fellow retired friends and colleagues.

Roger pursued many hobbies and interests, including model railroading, astronomy, travel, and dining out. He volunteered at the Historic Hagerstown

Museum and was a member of The Nickel Plate Road Historical & Technical Society, Inc. He was also proud of his membership in an automotive enthusiast club, the Road Knights, during his high school years.

Roger was clever, loyal, and kind. Though strong-willed and stubborn at times, he also had an enormous heart, and a wonderful sense of humor, and was often the voice of reason. He could never pass up a bargain and always had a “shortcut”. Those who knew him will never forget his wit, lively story-telling, and infectious laugh. They also will find comfort in knowing that Roger recently expressed that he had lived a wonderful life and couldn't have had better family or friends.

Roger leaves behind his wife, Kay; four daughters, Karen (Andy) Avery, Julie (Craig) Dishman, Laura (Tim) Cummins, and Amy (Steve) Bradway; ten grandchildren and their spouses; nine great-grandchildren; a sister, Jan (Bruce) Jeavons; in-laws John and Karen Stephens; many nephews; one niece; several close cousins; and two feline companions, Happy and Luckie.

A celebration of life for Roger will be held on July 19, 2024, from 5-8 p.m. at Hartley Hills Country Club in Hagerstown. A second celebration of life will be held in Huron, Ohio, with details to be determined.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 19. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Hartley Hills Golf Course
201 N. Woodpecker Rd.
Hagerstown, IN 47346

Tribute Wall

CR

“ Traveled/worked with Roger's dad in the early 70's. Learned so much since we are cousins.Heard many stories that I still relate today. I know why Roger had all the interests...just like his dad who was one great man!!

Con Ruffing - July 26, 2024 at 12:54 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Roger W. Esker.



July 18, 2024 at 07:13 PM

DT

“ Draper Resi Regional Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Roger W. Esker.

Draper Resi Regional Team - July 18, 2024 at 07:13 PM

MS

“ Much love & our sympathies purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Roger W. Esker.



Much love & our sympathies - July 18, 2024 at 05:10 PM

MS

“ *Much love & our sympathies planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Roger W. Esker.*

Much love & our sympathies - July 18, 2024 at 05:10 PM

SC

“ *Steve Cook purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Roger W. Esker.*



Steve Cook - July 18, 2024 at 03:09 PM

SC

“ *Steve Cook planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Roger W. Esker.*

Steve Cook - July 18, 2024 at 03:09 PM

MR

“ *MARILYN REVALEE lit a candle in memory of Roger W. Esker*



MARILYN REVALEE - July 16, 2024 at 04:41 PM