



01/05/2008

## Ralph Rudd

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Ralph Corlies Rudd, 92, died Dec. 26, 2007, in State College, Pa., of Parkinson's disease and its complications.

Ralph was born May 22, 1915, in Szechuan Province, China to Baptist missionaries Dr. Anna Evans Corlies Rudd and Herbert Finley Rudd.

In 1941, he married Carolyn Clausen. The couple lived in Willoughby, where they raised their four children from 1953 to 1992.

Ralph graduated from Philips Academy, Andover, Mass., the University of New Hampshire with a degree in philosophy and Yale University School of Law. He was a conscientious objector during World War II, performing alternative service in forestry in New York and as a subject in hepatitis experiments in Philadelphia.

In 1946, Ralph began the practice of law in Cleveland. His practice was general in nature, including work in personal injury, labor law, estates and wills, resistance of military draft during the war in Vietnam, and finally work for legal aid. He accomplished significant investigation and significant legal research. He was admitted to the Bar of the U.S. Supreme Court. He was also appreciated in his law firm as the one person who could usually fix the temperamental copy machine.

The family were active members of the Cleveland Friends Meeting (Quakers). Ralph was involved, often in leadership positions, with the American Civil Liberties Union, the NAACP, the Friends Committee for National Legislation, Willoughby Kiwanis and the Mental Health Association.

In 1958, Ralph was the first Lake County Democrat elected to the state legislature in almost 100 years. Honored by journalists as the Outstanding Freshman Legislator, Ralph was reelected in 1960. He ran unsuccessfully for U.S. Congress in 1968.

Something of a Renaissance man, Ralph enjoyed artistic photography and portraiture, choral and solo singing, woodwork, planting and identifying trees and inventive projects. He shared his interests with his children in unusual and wonderful ways.

In 1992, Ralph and Carolyn retired to Foxdale Village Retirement Community in State College, Pa. Heart trouble and Parkinson's disease greatly limited Ralph's activities and finally his mental acuity in his final years. Beginning at age 87, he lived mostly in the nursing care areas of his retirement community.

As Ralph directed, his body has been donated to Humanity Gifts Registry for anatomical study and research.

Ralph is survived by his wife, Carolyn; four children, Darnell Rudd Mandelblatt and Corlies Rudd Delf of Eugene, Ore., Herbert Finley Rudd II of Rockville, Md., and Rachel Rudd Christensen of Oviedo, Fla.; 13 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; siblings, William Richards Rudd of Atlanta, Ga., and Edith Rairden Rudd Kent of Montpelier, Vt.; and nephew, Peter B. Clausen of Mentor.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Carol Corlies Rudd Ward and grandson, Erik Charles Mandelblatt.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Contributions in Ralph's memory may be made to the American Civil Liberties Union, P.O. Box 96265, Washington, D.C. 20090.

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