



Ralph F. Desiderio

April 14, 1938 - March 24, 2024

Ralph F. "Ray" Desiderio, age 85, husband of Marie S. (Liberatori) Desiderio, of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, passed away on Sunday, March 24, 2024, in the Paoli Hospital. Born on April 14, 1938, in Philadelphia, he was the son of the late Helen (D'Orazio) and Francesco Desiderio.

Ray was a graduate of the former St. John Neumann High School in South Philadelphia before earning his Masters Degree from LaSalle College. He served honorably in the United States Army.

Ray was Senior Vice President of Community Redevelopment for Continental Bank, later PNC Bank in Philadelphia. Well respected within his field, he was recognized as sincere and a great leader, who made everyone that he came in contact with feel that they were the most important. During his tenure, Ray worked with Project HOME, the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation, ACORN and many other non-profits, which earned him a highly respected reputation within the non-profit sector of Philadelphia. He was able to help accomplish a lot of good for the underserved communities through his position in redevelopment.

Ray dedicated 25 years of fundraising through a concept he created for a Merit Awards Dinner benefiting children's oncology at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, which spanned over a 25-year period. Efforts included

presenting an award to volunteers, staff members, Philadelphia Eagles players and coaches, who dedicated their time and professional services to children suffering from oncological diseases.

In his spare time, Ray enjoyed working around his home, was an avid gardener and was a member of the Knight of Columbus. He was a Philadelphia sports fan, especially the Eagles and the Phillies. Known by Popi, Ray loved spending time with his granddaughters.

In addition to his loving wife, Ray is survived by daughters: Lisa D., wife of Patrick J. Walsh and Cathy A., wife of Thomas G. Palmer Jr.; grandchildren: Dr. Rachel E. (Patrick) Reilly, Michelle G. (Brendan) McGowan, Sara Palmer and nephew, Jim (Stacey) Tagliaferri and many other nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by daughter: Gina Marie Desiderio; sister: Betty Ann (Vincent) Masturzo and sister-in-law: Rosann (Alfred) Tagliaferri.

A memorial mass for Marie and Ray will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at 11:00 am, at St. Ann Chapel, 604 S. Main Street, Phoenixville. Officiating will be the Rev. Daniel Arechabala. Friends will be received from 9:30 am - 11:00 in the Chapel.

Memorial contributions may be made in Ralph's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, www.StJude.org/donate or Main Line Hospice, 240 North Radnor Chester Road, Radnor, PA 19087, Attention: Home Care and Hospice.

Arrangements are being handled by the Campbell - Ennis - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc. Condolences may be offered online at www.PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ralph F. Desiderio*



Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home - April 27, 2024 at 11:04 PM

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“ *Please accept our sincere condolences on the passing of Ray. May your memories of him bring you comfort! He was a wonderful person to work with.. Carolyn and Elzar Camper*

Carolyn Camper (worked with Ray) - April 10, 2024 at 08:55 PM

NA

“ *Incredibly sad to hear the news and deepest condolences and sympathy to the Desiderio and Palmer family. Ray, indeed, was one of the kindest and gentle giants I have ever known. Cathy, I am sorry about your loss! I always was thought how great it was for you to work at the same company with your dad. I still find myself talking about Ray's impact to a significant number of economic development focus nonprofits in the Philadelphia area. Ray exemplified exceptional philanthropic and community engagement with deep intelligence and grace.*
Nelson Acevedo

Nelson Acevedo - March 29, 2024 at 09:06 PM

DC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the Desiderio and Palmer families and his friends and extended family. Your dad was a sweet man and highly accomplished in his career and philanthropic endeavors!

An honor to have been able to break bread and drink wine with him. We love your family and are hoping your memories help bring you all comfort during this difficult time.

The Cardarelli Family

Dale Cardarelli - March 29, 2024 at 12:39 PM

NA

Incredible sad to hear the news and my deepest condolences and sympathy to the Desiderio and Palmer family. Ray, indeed, was one of the kindest and gentle giants I have ever known. Cathy, I am sorry about your loss! I was thought how great it was for you to work at the same company with your dad. I still find myself talking about Ray's impact to a significant number of economic development focus nonprofits in the Philadelphia area. Ray exemplified exceptional philanthropic and community engagement with deep intelligence and grace.

Nelson Acevedo

Nelson Acevedo - March 29, 2024 at 08:41 PM