



## Ralph T. Plowman

September 8, 1927 - June 21, 2016

Ralph T. Plowman, age 88, died peacefully at his home June 21, 2016. On September 8, 1927, Ralph Plowman was born to Barton and Francis Plowman of Elderon, Wisconsin. Ralph was raised in the family hardware store. He loved to hunt and fish with his Dad growing up. Ralph served in the Navy during WWII and then returned home and attended Stevens Point University. Ralph's early career was working for the state of Wisconsin in the then Conservation Department. He had many duties including law enforcement and fire control. Ralph worked for the Conservation Department for 17 years rising up to the status of district ranger. He was one of only 12 district rangers in the state. Ralph was very much a people person and that came into play during his years as a district ranger. He helped coordinate the state and local fire departments working together.

It was while working for the state, while Ralph was scouting out a location for a new fire tower in Waushara County, that he met the love of his life, Barbara Reed. They were married in 1956 and had two children, Kirk and Kent.

In 1969, Ralph and Barbara decided they wanted to settle down in Wautoma, Wisconsin and run a business. They bought a lawnmower and snowmobile store, East Side Sales. From those very humble beginnings they added boats and motors and renamed the business Plowman's Outdoor Outfitters. Ralph always had a dream to expand the business and always loved the Minocqua

area. In the fall of 1982, those dreams became a reality when they packed up and moved to Woodruff and opened Plowman's Marine.

For those who met Ralph you know he liked everyone. He would talk to you, tell you stories and had a memory for names like no one else. It is those stories we will miss. There is so much that could be written about him, his steady hand at running his business through good and bad times, his love of cars and classic movies.

We are all sure that right now Ralph and Barb are going for a little ride to find a neat shop that Barb read about. Happy travels, Mom and Dad.

Ralph leaves behind his sons, Kirk (Vicki) Plowman and Kent (Amy Jo) Plowman; 3 grandchildren, Shelly Kwiatkowski, Austin Plowman and Conner Plowman and of course his beloved cat, Molly.

Visitation will be held from 12:00 – 2:00 PM on Sunday, June 26, 2016 at Bolger Funeral Home – Woodruff Chapel, followed by a Funeral Service at 2:00 PM. Interment with full Military Honors will be at Sunset Memorial Garden Cemetery in Arbor Vitae.

# Cemetery Details

## Sunset Memorial Garden

Arbor Vitae, WI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 26.** 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Bolger Cremation & Funeral Services - Woodruff Chapel  
1212 First Avenue  
(mailing address P.O. Box 40, Woodruff WI 54568)  
Woodruff, WI 54568  
(715) 356-6006  
bolgerfuneral@gmail.com  
<https://www.bolgerfuneral.com>

## Funeral Service

**JUN 26.** 2:00 PM (CT)

Bolger Cremation & Funeral Services - Woodruff Chapel  
1212 First Avenue  
(mailing address P.O. Box 40, Woodruff WI 54568)  
Woodruff, WI 54568  
(715) 356-6006  
bolgerfuneral@gmail.com  
<https://www.bolgerfuneral.com>

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ Our sincerest sympathy to the Plowman family! Ralph was one of those people that we actually were happy to run into around town. He was always happy and kind and was such a genuine person. We appreciate how well he treated his customers, and how much he cared about his employees. The sun shines a little less brightly today...

*Dave and Jacquie De Bauche*

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**Dave & Jacquie De Bauche** - June 29, 2016 at 01:18 PM

JV

“ Very sorry to hear of Ralph's passing. We last saw him at the Ace Hardware store on our last trip up around Memorial Day weekend. He was such a personable man, always friendly. We'll certainly miss seeing him & talking with him at the boat shop. Our deepest sympathies to Kirk, Kent, & their families.

*Joe & Sue Valecka*

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**JOE VALECKA** - June 25, 2016 at 12:36 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Ralph T. Plowman.



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June 25, 2016 at 12:28 PM

CH

“ We are so sorry to hear of your loss....our sincere condolences. Now we have another bright star in the Northern sky....

*The Hext's  
Doug & Carol  
Bob & Laurie*



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**Carol Hext** - June 25, 2016 at 11:16 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ralph T. Plowman.



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June 25, 2016 at 08:35 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Ralph T. Plowman.



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June 24, 2016 at 11:54 AM

KG

“ My heart goes out to the Plowman family..Ralph was such a sweet person! He and Barb and once again back together.

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**Keri Gray** - June 24, 2016 at 08:45 AM

PB

“ So,so sorry to hear of the loss of Ralph! He was such a nice man and I so enjoyed talking with him when he came in to the store. He will truly be missed. My sympathy and prayers go out to the family. Peggy Bengtson. <3



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**Peggy Bengtson** - June 23, 2016 at 08:47 PM

MW

“ Michael Wade lit a candle in memory of Ralph T. Plowman



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**Michael Wade** - June 23, 2016 at 06:58 PM

MW

“ My family would like to extend to your family our deepest heartfelt sympathies ... The Plowman's have always been like family to us and we will miss Ralph's smiling face and cute short stories ... I am a second generation Plowman customer and the passing of Ralph is like losing a very dear friend ... Every time I go out in my Lund boat fishing, I will think of your loss and the passing of a very dear human being ... Our prayers and thoughts go out to your family ...

*Michael & Joyce Wade - Conover, Wi ...*

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**Michael Wade** - June 23, 2016 at 06:56 PM

LW

“ *LUND BOATS, MIKE & PEGGY WHITE purchased the Rainbow Reflections Basket for the family of Ralph T. Plowman.*



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**LUND BOATS, MIKE & PEGGY WHITE** - June 23, 2016 at 08:50 AM

LK

“ *My deepest sympathies to the Plowman family. Whenever Ralph came over to the shop, I always knew I was in for a wonderful visit and some story about one of his grandchildren. He is now with Bob (Kleinschmidt) and Barb enjoying their new life without pain. RIP Ralph...we will miss you!*

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**Lana Kleinschmidt** - June 22, 2016 at 11:19 AM