



Ray Brumblay

February 8, 1912 - October 14, 2010

Ray Ulysses Brumblay, 98, passed away peacefully Oct. 14, 2010, at home with hospice care and his beloved wife of 69 years.

Ray was born in Azusa, Calif., Feb. 8, 1912, to Joseph and Cora Reed Brumblay. He went to 14 different elementary schools as his father went from job to job, moving his family with him. Ray's family moved to Bloomington, N.Y., where his father took a permanent job as the custodian of Indiana University Library, giving Ray access to books. He also had the opportunity to work in the library throughout high school and college.

After graduation from Indiana University, Ray hitchhiked to California with a friend to visit his brother, Fred, a photographer. Unable to afford bus fare for return to Indiana, Ray bought a second-hand bike. He outfitted saddle bags with items needed including plenty of peanut butter and jelly, for the long ride home.

After receiving his Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Wisconsin, Ray accepted T.A. job in the chemistry department. Noticing Lolita, he got her name from her chemistry instructor and called for a date. She said, "No date, until formally introduced. To get to the residence for lunch after chemistry class, Lolita rushed down the hall and around the corner and bumped right into Ray, who was carrying a tray of unknown. Managing to hang on to the tray, he said, "I'm the guy who has been calling you, how about a date?" She replied, "I guess we have just been formally introduced. Their first date was a dance on Friday, Feb. 13, 1938.

In fall 1938, Ray was called to substitute teach chemistry at Indiana University Extension in East Chicago, Ind. He accepted a permanent job there. Ray and Lolita were married Aug. 16, 1941.

Ray was drafted into the Army in January 1943, just after their first child, Lynn, was born. Ray taught chemical warfare at Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland until the war ended. He was then called by the University of Wisconsin to teach chemistry at the Milwaukee extension.

He installed the concrete for the driveway and garage of their new home in Whitefish Bay. He also built the garage. Ray learned the joys of joining when a neighbor, Bill Marshall, asked him to join the Milwaukee Curling Club. With other members, he helped tile the floor of Fellowship Hall at North Shore Congregational Church.

Ray taught chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison 17 summers, at which time wrote a chemistry text and a series of lab manuals for Barnes and Noble, all translated into Spanish.

Ray accepted a job teaching chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Wausau extension, and joined the Wausau Curling Club. Moving to Two Sisters Lake between Rhinelander and Minocqua also brought two square dance clubs into the picture.

In 1979, Ray joined Timber Ridge CC. During the winter, Ray cross country skied. In spring, he helped Wally Wend and his brothers harvest sap to make maple syrup. Before joining the Minocqua Country Club in 2000, Ray had a hole-in-one on Timber Ridges hole number 9, the same hole that Lolita had aced in 1985. Ray also joined the American Legion.

Ray's greatest enjoyment in life has come from the five Brumblay children, Lynn (Robert Falconer), Dr. R. Scott (Sue Buech), Jean (Clem Richau), Dr. Robert (in Hawaii), and Laurie; 14 grandchildren, John Falconer (Maria), Peter (Lyn), Robert, Tim, and Craig Brumblay, William, Dorothy, and Paul Richau, Phillip, Melissa, and Sarah Clausen, Jackson, Cammie, and Hunter Brumblay; and one great-grandchild, Paige Brumblay.

Tribute Wall

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“ I am so sorry to hear about the loss of "Mr. Brumblay". Ray and Lolita were great friends with my grandpa and grandma, Robert and Kay Bohmann, as we lived across 2 Sisters Lake. I grew up visiting Ray and Lolita and I have great memories. Just last week we were going through pictures for my mom's funeral and came across some great pictures of Ray and Lolita. Please accept out sincere condolences on your loss.

The Dixon Family

Tim Dixon - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM

AM

“ Dear Brumblay Family,

I fondly remember your parents visiting with my grandparents when I was a child and I recall watching them in awe. They always appeared to be so content with thier life on Two Sister's Lake and with one another.

I still have "The Hermit Hummer" book written by Mrs. Brumblay as it was given to us after the birth of our first child in 1994. I feel very blessed to have such memories to pass on. Please accept my condolnces on the passing of Mr. Brumblay.

*Amy(Dixon)Marquardt
Granddaughter of Robert and Kay Bohmann*

Amy - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM

KF

“ *Dear Lolita and family, We all loved Ray with his quick wit and kindness at MCC. We will miss him and we send love and peace to you.*

Kay and Dick Forrer - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM