



Roger Roland Wakefield

June 16, 1941 - July 2, 2021

Roger Roland Wakefield, former professional boxer, takes a dive on his last fight. Roger, age 80, of Park Falls, WI died on Friday July 2, 2021, at his home in the arms of his loving wife, surrounded by family. He was born on June 16, 1941, in Sparta, WI, the son of Roland Garth and Beatrice Augusta (Kewit) Wakefield. On May 11, 1961, he married his high school sweetheart, Barbara Craig. The couple lived in many communities through the years, including La Crosse, WI, Cresco, IA, and Rochester, MN before moving to Park Falls in 2005. Roger was a 1959 graduate of Central High School in La Crosse. He became a professional boxer at the age of 17. After graduation he served in the Wisconsin Army National Guard, boxed for the Army National Boxing Team and also achieved a black belt in Taekwondo. Throughout his career, he was a Life and Health Insurance Broker. Roger was honored with a distinguished service award for his support of the chiropractic profession by Northwestern College of Chiropractic.

He is survived by his wife Barbara of Park Falls, three children: Timothy (Lorelei) Wakefield of Butternut, WI, Kristopher (Shannon) Wakefield of Poynette, WI and Kimberly (David) Gaston of Peoria, IL, ten grandchildren: Beau, Chais, Shane, Sam, Bailey, Josie, Maggie, Kori, Rafael and Havanna, one great-grandson Anderson, his brother Gary (Dawn) Wakefield of Branson, MO, two sister-in-laws Mari Wakefield of La Crosse and Helen Taylor of Sun

Prairie, WI and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Maurice Wakefield and sister-in-law Carol Klinge.

Roger was a well-known heavy weight boxer in the La Crosse area in the late 50's and 60's. He never met a stranger and was the first to step up to help those in need. Roger was very proud of his family, a father figure to many, was the life of a party and always had great stories to tell. Roger would proudly share stories of his professional boxing career with everyone! See links below.

Celebration of Roger's life will be held in the conference room of Country Inn & Suites by Radisson in La Crosse on August 7th from 1:00pm - 4:00pm. 2110 Rose Street, La Crosse, WI 54603.

Memorials may be sent to the family at: 240 9th Street South Apt. 1, Park Falls, WI 54552

<https://boxerlist.com/boxer/roger-wakefield/36378/>

Birch Street Funeral Service in Park Falls is assisting the family.
www.birchstreetfuneralservice.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 7. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Country Inn & Suites by Raddison
2110 Rose Street
La Crosse, WI 54603

Tribute Wall



“ *Roger Roland Wakefield*

October 05, 2023 at 02:07 PM



“ *The Nesbits, Jim, Nancy, Maggie & Sam purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Roger Roland Wakefield.*



The Nesbits, Jim, Nancy, Maggie & Sam - July 24, 2021 at 06:25 PM



“ *Divine Light was purchased for the family of Roger Roland Wakefield.*



July 21, 2021 at 01:30 PM



“ *Dear Tim, Lori and family,
My sympathies to all of you. I met your Dad a couple of times. He was a man whose personality filled a room!! The kind of person that people were drawn to. I know you will all miss him every day. Hold his memories close to your hearts. ❤️
God Bless,
Cathy Wagner-Melby*

Cathy Wagner-Melby - July 09, 2021 at 11:01 PM

GL

“ Mark and I have fond memories of Roger. He was friendly and made friends immediately. Roger and Barb were wonderful grandparents, following Beau, Chase, and Shane’s school careers. Heaven has gained another angel. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Wakefield family.

Ginny Luoma - July 06, 2021 at 03:14 PM

MM

Thoughts and prayers!!

Mark Morgan - July 07, 2021 at 09:42 AM

MM

Thoughts and prayers!!

Mark Morgan - July 07, 2021 at 09:42 AM

BL

Condolences from our family including my parents, Rollie and Doris Kronberger. Roger would stop by my parents house every now and then and we loved his stories. We admired his background in boxing and Taekwondo and thought it was cool that he and his wife knew Master Joe Kim of whom our kids studied under. He will be missed and my dad will miss playing him in cribbage.

Barb Lucas - July 07, 2021 at 10:41 AM

RF

My thoughts and prayers go out to the Wakefield family for their loss of this great man. Roger was a one of a kind gentleman who inspired every life he touched.

Randall Fleming - July 08, 2021 at 07:08 AM

LK

So sorry to hear of Roger's passing. Roger was one of the first friends I met when I moved to La Crosse in 1951. In fact, he lived across the street on 7th. What fun and fond memories of our school years together. Always looked forward to our class reunions. His smile and unique laugh were contagious.

Lois Dahlby Kathan - July 08, 2021 at 01:11 PM

HH

Roger & I first met on 6th & Main in front of the old Cathedral. We were both about 10 yrs. old, and didn't much like each other. That first meeting ended in a snow bank. The next several months, every time we met there would be a tussle of some sort.

Then one time, we met, looked at each other and broke out in laughter, and became best friends. Where you saw one, the other was nearby. However you could always hear Roger. I spent as much time in the Wakefield house as I did my own.

Later in life, both married, starting families, we would occasionally see each other for visits but life gets busy. I will always think of Roger as my best friend.

*Carol and I send our heartfelt sympathies to all of you.
Harry Hoesley*

Harry & Carol Hoesley - July 08, 2021 at 06:00 PM

LK

Only met Roger, and Barb, when they became my neighbors a few years ago. He was imposing in stature and gentle in attitude and totally endeared himself to me. I will miss him greatly. Love and kudos to Barb and family.

Linda Kunding - July 08, 2021 at 11:52 PM

MC

Roger and I were good friends growing up. I have some great memories of our experiences. My deepest sympathies go out to his family. R.I.P Rog.

Mike Crandall

Mike Crandall - July 09, 2021 at 06:35 AM

SR

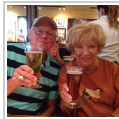
An unforgettable laugh and a fine cigar. My memory of Roger. Rest peacefully.

Stan Rieder - July 09, 2021 at 08:35 AM

JT

.Roger was a giver who helped whoever he could whenever he could. In the late '60's, after serving 2 tours of duty in Vietnam, I did not have a job and I was disgusted with life in general, Roger gave a job, he and Barb gave me a bedroom and fed me until I got on my feet. Roger inspired me to believe in myself. Thank you Roger and Barb.

John Trussoni - July 09, 2021 at 12:31 PM



So sorry for your loss Barb and family. Roger was an old neighborhood/school friend. Blessings.

John Ruth Fafinski - July 09, 2021 at 07:58 PM

BW

John T. - we share some great memories. I remember you bought my first dryer from Montgomery ward during that time.

barbara wakefield - July 09, 2021 at 09:50 PM

BW

John T. – we share some great memories. I remember that you bought my first dryer from Montgomery ward during that time.

barbara wakefield - July 09, 2021 at 09:51 PM

GS

I was a year behind Roger in high school and had long admired boxers when I first met Roger. He smiled at me and it broke bigger when he heard my last name. His smile always lit up those around him. My sympathy to the family. Rest in peace, Roger.

George Snodgrass - July 10, 2021 at 04:12 PM

HS

*I grew up a block and a half from Roger, Gary, and Morrie when I lived on 9th. I still remember Roger and Gary throwing knives at each other against a tree in their front yard. I always enjoyed seeing him when he would occasionally pass thru LAX.
So sorry to hear of his passing.*

Hal Scheie - July 11, 2021 at 05:45 PM

NW

*Roger made his presence known whenever he made an entrance. He was loud and imposing but oh so gentle, caring and giving. All would soon know who Roger was and how very proud he was of Barb and his children as he would always boast of their achievements. Roger was such a caring and giving person. And that laugh.....
Sincere sympathies to all of the Wakefields.*

Nancy Wilber

Nancy Wilber - July 13, 2021 at 12:55 AM

TR

The Riniker Family would like to extend our sympathies to Barb, Tim, Kris, and Kim for your loss. Roger was a great friend to my father, Jim, and through that friendship our families became introduced. I have many fond memories of Roger and the Wakefield family. Roger's amazing personality, wonderful stories, and laughter left an impression on me like no other. Although it's been many years since we've all been together, please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you, and that Roger will live on in our hearts and memories forever.

Tom Riniker

Tom Riniker - July 30, 2021 at 06:22 PM