



Rudolph "Rudy" Kalwat

December 22, 1917 - August 19, 2006

Rudolph "Rudy" W. Kalwat, 88, of New Britain, entered into eternal rest on Saturday August 19, 2006 after a brief illness. Rudy was devoted to his wife of 37 years, Shirley Thompson Kalwat, who predeceased him in 1982. He was born and lived most of his life in New Britain. He was a graduate of New Britain High School, Class of 1936, and received an Associates Degree from the University of Hartford. Rudy served in the U.S. Navy during World War II on the U.S.S. Portsmouth. He was employed for 45 years as an electrician at the Stanley Works, where he was also an avid bowler well beyond his retirement in 1980.

Church and family came first to Rudy. He was a beloved member and tireless worker at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church where he headed the Board of Trustees for many years. Surviving is a son, Donald Kalwat and his wife Mary Ann of Bristol; a daughter, Janet Kalwat of New Canaan; and a brother, Maynard Kalwat of New Britain. Rudy cherished his four grandchildren, Douglas Kalwat and wife Jamie who will soon have Rudy's great grandchild; and Ivy, Gregory, and Gwendolyn Schultz. He also leaves several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Thursday 10 AM at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 87 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery. Calling hours are Wednesday evening 5 to 8 PM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. Memorial gifts may be made to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. Please share a memory or note of sympathy with Rudy's family by clicking on "GUESTBOOK" at the bottom of this page.

Tribute Wall

RH

“ *The Kalwat clan was always a part of the Hausman family's life of faith at St. Matthews Evangelical Lutheran Church. You have my sympathy and will be in my thoughts and prayers.*

*warm regards,
Robert A. Hausman*

Robert A. Hausman - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ *To all who knew "Uncle Rudy", but especially Uncle Don, Aunt Maryann, Aunt Janet, Doug and Jamie, Ivy, Greg, and Gwendolyn ~*

I have many memories of Uncle Rudy and am grateful for every moment that I have ever shared with him. I always enjoyed his stories, his experiences, his outlook on life, his sense of humor, and just his company. He was always someone who you could feel comfortable around, and who would take the shirt off his back for you if you let him.

One thing told to me recently is something I would like to share - "What we do for ourselves dies with us, but what we do for others is immortal" And with that in mind, Uncle Rudy's life is immortal ~ because he lives in each of us.

It has been so difficult to watch my Grandmother and the "Aunts and Uncles" of his generation pass on - SO MUCH because they were each so special and represented what family is supposed to be ~ to be there for each other, spend time together, laugh together, eat and drink together, enjoy the next generation and all that you are blessed to be alive to see ~ and I am so thankful to be a part of this family, and for all that Uncle Rudy has taught me.

Yes, the love that he showed his family, and above all, to Aunt Shirley, before and after her passing, not only shows me an example of how I want to live, but also, brings me comfort, knowing that he is with God and many of those that he has loved and lost in his own life.

*My love to the Kalwat family,
Mitch, Michelle and I wish that we could have been there to celebrate his life these past couple days with you all. However, distance and illness has kept us away.*

Jennifer Date Kirkpatrick - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *What can I say that would even begin to express my feelings for Uncle Rudy? He was above all an amazing man with a heart bigger than just about anyone I have ever known.*

My favorite memories about him include:

his huge smile, his red plaid swim trunks he wore out at Indian neck, his yearly requests for a screwdriver the drink at the Family Christmas parties especially in the basement of Uncle Teddy and Aunt Kay's house, his "Reddy Kilowat" pin which I would give a million dollars to see on his scarlet suit coat lapel again, his intense love for St. Matt's and everyone who worked and attended there, the way he gruffly called me "Steffy" whenever he saw me - even up until the most recent time I saw him and the jokes he always used to tell me - over and over again!

His character impressed me so highly - he cared for all of the family graves at the cemetery - and never expected anything in return - monetary or otherwise. His never-ending love for Aunt Shirley that defined the example of true love between a husband and a wife. One of the first things I said when I was told by my father that he passed away was that at least now he could be reunited with Aunt Shirley.

I don't think a lot of us kids aged in his eyes. I know he never aged in my eyes. His life was so full and he was so strong and he was so dedicated to making people as happy as he was and causes that were important to him - including FAMILY - which I think was one of the most important things in his life.

I will truly miss him and always be glad for the opportunity to be related to him and to know him.

Stephanie Hyde Almeida and Family - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

FG

“ *Dear Janet,*

Though I did not know your dad, I always liked to hear you talk about him because I could sense the great love you had for him. He must have been a special person to have such a kind daughter. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Sincere condolences,

Francine

Francine Goldstein - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SV

“ I am sorry to learn of Rudy's death. I came to know Rudy through the Arch Area NRZ. Rudy was a faithful attendee of our monthly meetings. This is a time when stakeholders of the Arch Area neighborhood meet to hear about the status of the community and work to improve it. Rudy was always there representing St. Matthew's and the neighborhood. There are not many like Rudy, and he will be missed by all. I will be out of State on Wednesday and Thursday, but my thoughts and prayers are with you. Stephen Varga

Stephen Varga - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ To all who read this, I Linda was music teacher at St. Matthew's school for 14 years. Rudy was a beloved part of the "family" there for many years before me, and afterward. There was nothing he wouldn't do. He always had good words for and about everyone, and a smile on his face, and never complained. I have no doubt he's continuing his earthly life with our Lord in Heaven - without any of the hardships, of course. Mr. Rudy, we will all miss you! Love, Linda & Fred Roth

Linda & Fred Roth - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Janet, Donny & Maryanne,

*I'm so sorry about Uncle Rudy; I feel blessed to have had him for an uncle. When I saw him in April, he was just the same, only older. Still wise cracking and making jokes! Sending hugs over the internet.
Love, Diane Thompson Smith and family.*

Diane Smith - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ Dear Donny, Janet and Maryann:
We were sorry to hear about Rudy passing away. It is so difficult to lose a loved one.
Our thoughts are with you.

Therese Pac & Atty. Barry Thompson - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Sharon and I are very sorry and saddened to hear about Uncle Rudy. We wish we could be there however, we have previous commitments that cannot be altered. Again, we both are very saddened by Uncle Rudys passing.

Carl and Sharon Hyde - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Dear Janet and Don: We extend our deepest sympathy on the passing of your Dad, and our wonderful Uncle Rudy. We are sorry we will not be able to be with you to celebrate his life. My childhood memories are full of great days with your Mom and Dad and we were pleased to be able to spend a little time with your Dad at the recent reunion.
Our best wishes, Chuck and Dale

Chuck & Dale McGlew - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ My memories of Uncle Rudy will always include his devotion to Saint Matthews Church, his kindness and gentle mannerism. Whenever Ed ran into him they always had lots to talk about, Ed enjoyed picking his brain. I have memories of his home in New Britain and then Southington and I also have some treasured pictures that include him on the Kalwat Sundays down at the Ct shore or at family picnics...either a game of horse shoes or pinochle was in order.
It is with sincere sympathy and respect that I send this note.
Sincerely,
Peg and Ed Higgins

Peg & Ed Higgins - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM