



## Russell E. Magnuson

September 2, 1928 - November 21, 2018

Russell E Magnuson of Southington, husband of the late Carolyn Louise Stange Magnuson, his beloved wife of 59 years, died November 21, 2018. Born in New Britain, Sept 2, 1928, and moved to Southington in 1957. He was the son of the late John A. Magnuson and Julia M. (Barrett) Magnuson. He attended schools in New Britain and graduated from E.C. Goodwin Tech School, as a craftsman. Russell was a proud U.S. Army Veteran of the Korean War as a Field Radio Repair Man, serving in the 24th Signal Service Battalion stationed at the U.S. Air Force Base in Thule, Greenland. He was a Life-Long member of the First Lutheran Church in New Britain and was a long-time member of the senior choir and the men's Wennerburg Choir. He and Carolyn were married on Dec 16, 1950 and 3 weeks later, he left for the military service. Following the service, he worked 35 years for the New Britain Machine CO., later a division of Litton Industries, retiring in 1990 as a Senior Design Engineer. He is survived by his 3 children, Carol of Greenfield, MA, Peter of Warwick, MA, Patricia Burkett of Los Angeles, CA, and his brother in law Gene of Bristol, CT. Also 6 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, and many wonderful friends and neighbors. He was predeceased by 2 sisters Helen and Gladys, and a son in law, Kenneth Burkett. Always interested in aviation, he learned to fly at age 16. He later met Carolyn after giving her a ride in his plane. Russell was a long time member of the New England Air Museum, a docent and a restoration volunteer. He was the crew chief instrumental in restoring a rare WW2 Navy Blimp, Gondola, a 23 year project.

The Funeral will be held Tuesday 11 AM at the First Lutheran Church, 77 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051 with calling hours Tuesday morning from 10 to 10:45 AM at the Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. Burial will be at the South End Burial ground, in Southington, CT. Donations may be made in Russell's name to the First Lutheran Church, or to the New England Air Museum, Attn: Ron Katz, 36 Perimeter Road, Windsor Locks, CT 06096. We would like to give a huge thank you to all the staff at Mulberry Gardens in Plantsville, CT for all their care and love they showed to Russell during the 2 years he stayed there and to all of Russell's many friends whom he loved so much. We will miss all of you! Please share a memory or note of sympathy at [www.carlsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## South End Cemetery

South End Road  
Plantsville, CT 06479

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

NOV 27. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

Carlson Funeral Home  
45 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051  
(860) 225-6361  
carlsonfh@aol.com  
<https://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

NOV 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Lutheran Church  
77 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051

# Tribute Wall

MS

“ I had the privilege of working with Russ for many years at the New England Air Museum. He usually served as a docent on Mondays and we always - and I mean always! - received feedback from visitors on their way out the door about how great a job he did in guiding around the Museum. He was cordial, patient and incredibly informative. He had to give up serving as a docent when he and the team that he lead became so involved in the restoration of the Goodyear "K" ship blimp car. This was the only surviving artifact of its type and Russ gave it all that he had. His research, planning and engineering skills resulted in a world-class restoration of which we can all be proud. He was a great friend to all of us at the Air Museum and we will miss him greatly. Mike Speciale, Retired Executive Director

---

**Michael P. Speciale** - November 25, 2018 at 01:08 PM

JR

“ Russell was truly a gentleman.....and a wonderfully gentle man. His smile and kindness never faltered, even when he was in so much pain. His beautiful voice has been silenced here on earth, but I know he is now singing in Heaven with all of God's angels. May my dear friend rest in peace.....he will be greatly missed, but never forgotten. My heartfelt sympathy and loving thoughts go out to all of Russell's family and friends.....my life was blessed to have known him. Jean Rose, Front Desk Receptionist, Mulberry Gardens.



---

**Jean Rose** - November 24, 2018 at 06:33 PM

KA

*Mr. M, we will miss you so much! We are beyond grateful for all the wonderful memories we have. Despite our sadness, we are comforted knowing you are reunited with the love of your life and will be in eternal piece.*

*With love,  
Your girls Amelia, Scarlett, Katie*

---

**Katie** - November 25, 2018 at 02:16 AM

JW

*Russ was a bright spot in everyone's day when he volunteered at the New England Air Museum. He was a very dedicated, selfless man who earned the respect, admiration, and friendship of everyone who touched his life. He was a gifted craftsman who took great pride in restoring the Blimp Basket at the Museum. To know Russ was to love him!*

*RIP, my friend, we are happy that you are finally pain free.*

*With great fondness,  
Janyce Winger*

---

**Janyce Winger** - November 25, 2018 at 09:10 AM