



## Roland W. Finken

September 2, 1930 - July 6, 2013

Roland Walter Finken was born September 2, 1930, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was the first son of Herman and Gertrud Finken, German Immigrants, and had one younger brother, Harry Finken, who predeceased him by over 50 years.

Roland grew up in Wisconsin, but as a child of 7 years, his parents migrated with him back to Bremen, Germany where his Father had been promised a top Engineer position at the company making Stuka dive bombers. Once his Father noted the direction that the Hitler regime was going, he left with his family and returned to Milwaukee in 1938 where they remained. He graduated from Custer High School in 1948 and received a Bachelor of Science in Education from Wisconsin State College which later became the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

During the Korean War he passed the Math deferment test but he decided to let himself be drafted for two years. He was sent to Germany as an interpreter but all of a sudden he found himself in the US Army 1st Division Band touring all over Europe with his clarinet along with the famous singer Eddie Fisher. That was always a fun highlight of his career! When he completed his service, he went to Hammond, Indiana, to begin his first teaching job.

He knew he wanted to go on to graduate school. He had fraternity brothers who were at Stanford University who said, "Come on out--the weather's warm and the girls are pretty!" Sure enough, that is where he met Nan! A college friend arranged for them to go on a double date to a Stanford football game.

He showed up at her door with a red jacket with gold buttons and a hat with plumed feathers! He explained that he was playing in the band so he couldn't even sit with her on their first date! He completed his Master of Arts and all but the dissertation for his doctorate at Stanford.

Six months later they were married in San Francisco, Nan's hometown. They lived in Palo Alto and then moved to Humboldt County where he was an Assistant Superintendent of Schools at age 27 years. Susan was born while they lived there. Two years later they moved to the San Francisco Bay area. He was an Assistant Principal in Pacifica where Debbie was soon born. In 1963, Roland changed career directions at the urging of one of his Stanford Professors and became Director of the First Regional Training Center of the Internal Revenue Service in Los Angeles. Three years later, Roland accepted a position as Training Specialist with the IRS Tax Team in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and took his family there where Nan's extended family lived. In 1968, they relocated to McLean, VA where Roland rotated back to IRS Headquarters. In the early 70's, Roland accepted a new position and for over 30 years he was the Senior Training Officer at the Department of Justice. After retirement, he was selected as the USA AWAKE Coordinator of the Year for his work with the American Sleep Apnea Association. In that capacity he served as a resource for people from all over the United States who had been diagnosed with sleep disorders. He was a long time active member of the Vienna Optimist Club. He was a Board Member or participant in numerous community organizations.

Roland cherished his wife Nan and his daughters Susan and Debbie. He had a special bond with his son-in-law Terry and grandson Jamie. He loved his Grand-dog Maddie. Watching the Redskins and Nationals play whenever he could was always a highlight and he loved talking with Terry and Sue about the games.

Roland was like a Father, Grandparent and close friend to many families whom he treated like his own, including adopted Grandchildren, Julia, Joseph and Angela , children of Brenda and Mark Franke.

Roland loved to travel and see the world – taking a cruise just 2 weeks before he passed away was evidence of that love. Over the years they traveled the world from Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, South America and much more!

His sense of humor was always something you could count on. He touched the lives of many people and will be greatly missed.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Roland W. Finken*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Obituary Wall*



**Jefferson Funeral Chapel** - January 28, 2019 at 09:29 AM



“ *This is Stephen Cary at the University of San Francisco. Today I found an old electronic video device sitting on top of some bushes near the university. It has a label on it that reads: Roland Finken, 8008 Falstaff Rd., Mc Lean, VA. The video card is missing. If someone could please contact me, I'll send this to the family, should they want it. Thanks.*

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February 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ we happened to be at a party at a restaurant in the east bay when we heard someone say roland finken died awhile back...roland was a good man, and my late dad would say that too about "rolly". sorry he has passed away. patricia and franklin amster

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September 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ My heart is so very sad at "Dad Finken's" passing. He will forever have a special spot in my heart. Our love and prayers are with his family.

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July 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Roland was a good man and a true Optimist. He will be missed by everyone who knew him. We will keep your family in our thoughts and prayers.

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July 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ To Roland's family: I played in the NOVA band with Roland and loved to hear about his travels. He was a really friendly guy and I was unaware of his distinguished career. I will miss him in his chair at band rehearsal and at our concerts.

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July 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ To Nan, Debbie and Sue, and children:  
We send you our deepest condolences on the loss of Roland. He was dear man and was a pleasure to be around. He was a man of many talents.  
Fondly, Jane and Tom Winans

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July 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Nan, Debbie and Sue and family. I am so sorry for your loss. I will always remember what a generous, kind, warm, funny and friendly man Roland was. Please accept my condolences and know you are in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time for you all.

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July 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Nan and family - I'm so sorry to hear of Roland's passing. He was a lovely man. I enjoyed our rides together to band practice, where I got to know him. Roland enjoyed life and was clearly proud of his wonderful family. He will be missed.

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July 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Nancy and family,  
Our heartfelt condolences on your loss. I am so glad Daniel and I were able to visit with Roland in April. Ha-Makom yena hem etkhem be-tokh avelei &#225;&#186;'iyyon vi-Yrushalayim  
With love,  
The Thomsons

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July 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Susan and family,  
Please accept my deepest sympathy as you mourn the death of your husband . Peace be with you when you remember the joy of the life you shared.  
Madge Palumbo

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July 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Nancy, Sue and Debbie, we are very sad to hear that Roland passed away. We'll never forget him and are grateful for all his wonderful end-of-the-year - reports which gave us a lovely sight into his - and your - life. We are thinking of you in this difficult time. Love,  
Traute and Suse

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July 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ My heart breaks with the loss of Roland. I have known him for 40 years now. I will remain in his families lives forever and he will remain in my heart forever also....Patty Xeferis Ellison

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July 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts, prayers and condolences to Nancy, Susan and Debbie (and family) . Knowing he will enjoy reuniting with his brother, parents and cousins. Our love and appreciation to the "Washington Finken family"

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July 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Our condolences to Nancy, Susan and Debbie (and family). We know his memory will remain in our hearts and are grateful for our associations. trust he is enjoying his reunion with Harro and his parents. Our love

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July 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Debbie and family, I am sorry for your loss. Thinking of you at this difficult time.

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July 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so very sorry for your loss. May his love live on in your memories and bring you peace.

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July 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM