



## Roger P. Gustke

October 11, 1931 - March 7, 2020

Roger P. Gustke, age 88, of Waupaca, WI, formerly of Mosinee and Lac du Flambeau, WI, passed away on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at Park Vista Assisted Living in Waupaca. He was born October 11, 1931 in Oconto Falls, WI, son of Marvin and Patricia (Carlson) Gustke. Roger graduated from Wabeno High School. He went on to attend Wisconsin State College at Platteville receiving his Bachelor's Degree in 1953 and his MBA from the University of Wisconsin in 1964. Roger proudly served our country with the United States Army from 1953 to 1955.

Upon returning home to Wabeno for the first time since serving, he was greeted by his family and his sister's friend, Audrey Ripley. On August 25, 1956, Roger and Audrey were united in marriage at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay. They shared a 63-year marriage until Audrey's passing just 32 days prior to Roger.

Roger was a lifelong teacher. He started at Wabeno High School and soon after moved to Mosinee where he enjoyed a 32-year career, he and Audrey raised their family, and many cherished friendships were formed. Roger taught industrial arts, driver education, was a long-time high school football coach, basketball coach, and WIAA referee. He was also active with the Kiwanis Club and past President.

Roger enjoyed his time spent up north at Squaw Lake and retirement on Buckskin Lake where he created his own woodshop. He utilized his talents to make furniture for his children and treasured gifts for his grandchildren. Roger stayed active in retirement. His faith was strong and he gave back volunteering with the Lions Club and as President of the St. Anthony's Catholic Church men's club.

Roger was a lifelong sports enthusiast. He was a proud owner of the Green Bay Packers and a season ticket holder for 50 years. He attended the 1967 Ice Bowl. Roger never missed a chance to root on his alma mater, the University of Wisconsin, or the Milwaukee Brewers.

Roger is survived by his three children, Dana (Ronda) Gustke of Waupaca, WI, Boyd (Dorinda) Gustke of Merrill, WI, and Gina (Dan) Ricci of Cape Coral, FL; a son-in-law Jim (Tayna) Didier of Hortonville, WI; seven grandchildren, Maison (Caleb) Engel of Verona, WI, McKenna Gustke of Green Bay, WI, Will (Amanda) Didier of Cedarburg, WI, Cody (Stephanie) Didier of Fitchburg, WI, Cole Gustke of Wausau, WI, Ally Gustke of Madison, WI, and Dru Ricci of Cape Coral, FL; three great-grandchildren, Harper and Molly Didier, and Stella Didier; and a sister Barbara (Jay) Hansen of Glide OR. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Roger was preceded in death by his wife, Audrey; a daughter, Paula Didier; his parents, Marvin and Patricia Gustke; a sister, Janet (Iner) Osgood; and other cherished family and friends.

Roger will be dearly missed by all of his loving family and friends. The family would like to thank the staff of Park Vista Assisted Living for all their wonderful and compassionate care.

A Memorial Service will be on Friday, March 13, 2020 at 11:00 AM at Holly Funeral Home in Waupaca, WI. Father Xavier Santiago from Waupaca will officiate. A visitation will be held on Friday morning from 9:30 - 11:00 AM at Holly Funeral Home. Burial of Roger's cremains will take place at a later date at the Central WI Veterans Memorial Cemetery in King, WI. In lieu of flowers, a scholarship is being established at Mosinee High School.

# Events

---

**MAR** **Memorial Visitation** 09:30AM - 11:00AM

**13**

---

A. J. Holly & Sons (Waupaca)

526 S. Main St P.O. Box 254, Waupaca, WI, US, 54981

**MAR** **Memorial Service** 11:00AM

**13**

---

A. J. Holly & Sons (Waupaca)

526 S. Main St P.O. Box 254, Waupaca, WI, US, 54981

# Comments

---



“ Ronald Passow lit a candle in memory of Roger P. Gustke



**Ronald Passow** - March 11, 2020 at 06:31 PM

---



“ My heart aches for you all, to lose both Audrey and Roger within 32 days. Clearly, they wanted to be together for eternity. I'm sending love and virtual hugs to all who loved this entertaining man. I always enjoyed his company...

Becky Ripley

**Becky Ripley** - March 09, 2020 at 05:12 PM

---



“ To the entire Gustke family, so sad to hear the loss of your Dad!! The memories of back in school being called a Lumber Head are just wonderful. Your Dad was an awesome educator and all out fun teacher to have when back in school! Again sorry for your loss. Joel Brod, Stevens Point

**Joel Brod** - March 09, 2020 at 04:11 PM



“ To Gina, Boyd, Dana, and your loved ones & extended family...RG was an amazing man and my heart goes out to you all. I have wonderful memories of all of you and the fabulous family you are. I honestly can't remember what he called me, I think it was "Red", but I do remember the love that was the love that was so obvious when he looked at all of you. Take care, and know that he and AG are together again, and looking down at the wonderful people they created. Love you!

**Katie** - March 09, 2020 at 05:30 PM



“ Dana,  
Joel hit it on the head about being called a "lumberhead" by your dad. He was a fun teacher in woodworking. Had his hands full with all the "clowns" that went through his classes making sure no one ran their fingers through a planer or saw, etc. I also had him for drivers ed. One of the guys in our group of 3 would occasionally get caught driving with one hand on steering wheel. One day your dad "whacked" him with a 12" wooden ruler on the hand. Told him to use 2 hands. It was more of an attention getter than anything. Things like that make me laugh. Mr. Gustke was a great teacher. Sad, but we are losing all our high school teachers.

Terry Lane  
Grangeville, Id.

**Terry Lane** - March 10, 2020 at 05:02 PM



“ My dear cousins, my heart is heavy for you. Your parents were such wonderful folks. I have fond memories of them from my youth. Love and hugs to you all and your families.

Sue Ripley

**Sue Ripley** - March 10, 2020 at 09:11 PM



“ To the Gustke Family - It was so sad to hear of the untimely death of Uncle Roger, so soon after your Mom's passing. As a kid, I always enjoyed "vacations" at their home when they were living in Wabeno. They were a fun Aunt and Uncle. I am asking the Lord to give you His constant light to guide your way in the days ahead.

Much love,  
Sandy Gigot Servais & Bob Servais

**Sandy Gigot Servais & Bob Servais** - March 20, 2020 at 04:09 PM