



# Dr Ralph Edward Rydell

JAN 12, 1940 - APR 3, 2024



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## **Dr Ralph Edward Rydell**

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**D**r. Ralph E. Rydell, 84, passed away on April 3, 2024. He was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota and graduated from Wheaton High School in 1958. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota and attended medical school at Dartmouth College and the University of Minnesota, during which time he met his wife of almost 59 years, Kathleen. Dr. Rydell completed his neurosurgical residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Dr. Rydell practiced neurosurgery in Tampa for over 40 years. He dedicated himself to his profession with unwavering high standards and saved and improved the lives of countless patients over his career. He served as the President of the Florida Neurosurgical Society and President of the Hillsborough County Medical Association. He was Chief of Neurosurgery at Tampa General, St. Joseph's and University Community Hospitals. From 2010 - 2013, Dr. Rydell was a neurosurgeon at Landstuhl Army Hospital in Germany, affiliated with Ramstein Air Base, caring for active-duty service members and their families. He applied his medical knowledge in many compassionate ways around the world, including administering vaccinations in villages in Guatemala and offering general medical and surgical services in Gaza in 2014 through Physicians for Global Understanding.

Ralph ran more than 40 marathons around the world, including 15 Boston Marathons. He scaled to the top of some of the world's highest peaks, including Kilimanjaro (Africa), Elbrus (Russia), Aconcagua (Argentina), and Ranier (United States), among others.

In 2015, Ralph decided to take a trip around the world 'without leaving the surface of the earth,' meaning he traveled by any mode except airplane. Always curious and adventurous, his stated purpose was to better understand people and himself, the history of ancient civilizations, migrations of people, origins of religion, and geography. He loved adventure and made most of the six-month journey by himself, carrying his possessions on his back. He took a train from Tampa to New York, sailed from there across the Atlantic Ocean and made his way by train through Europe, on through Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan to name a few,



## Obituary

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passing through Russia, and traveling extensively across China to Hong Kong, where he secured passage for a 14-day voyage across the Pacific Ocean on a cargo ship. In Los Angeles he was reunited with Kathy, and they traveled up the Pacific Coast, across Canada on the Trans-Canadian Railroad, and then back to Tampa.

Ralph and Kathy were benefactors of The Florida Orchestra, Tampa Opera, Tampa Bay History Center, Mayo Clinic and other organizations. Dr. Rydell previously served as a Trustee of the Academy of the Holy Names. He was also a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Tampa Rotary Club. He was a member of Lake Magdalene Methodist Church, and for many years found spiritual joy through fellowship and singing in the choir at Forest Hills United Methodist Church.

Dr. Rydell is survived by his wife Kathleen; his sister Ruth Johnson; his two daughters Dr. Margret Rydell (Harry Aslanian) and Amy Werner (Brian Werner); and his six grandchildren: Elise, John, Alexander, Theodore, Annika, and Penelope. He is predeceased by his brother Robert Rydell.

Services will be held on Friday, April 12 at 3 p.m. at Lake Magdalene Methodist Church, 2902 West Fletcher Avenue, Tampa, FL 33618.

In lieu of flowers, you may consider a donation in Ralph Rydell's memory to one of the causes which he and Kathy supported: The Ralph and Kathleen Rydell Endowment for Corticobasal Syndrome Research, Mayo Clinic, Department of Development, 200 First Street SW, Rochester, MN 55905. The Florida Orchestra 244 2nd Ave N., Suite 420, St. Petersburg, FL 33701-3318  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vj5MQJHNeQc>



# Events


**Dr Ralph Edward Rydell**

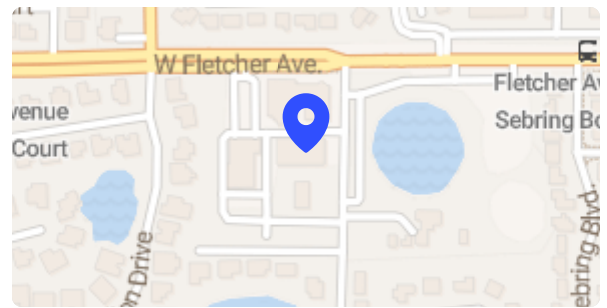
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## Celebration of Life

 **Friday**, April 12, 2024

 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET

 **Lake Magdeline Methodist Church**  
2902 West Fletcher Avenue, Tampa FL 33618





## Tribute Wall

**Dr Ralph Edward Rydell**

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**Ellee V.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Ralph.

April 11 at 8:56 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Magnificent Life Spray to the Rydell family.

April 10 at 4:57 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet to the Rydell family.

April 9 at 6:23 AM



**Don, Ellen And Your Hwa Family** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Ralph.

April 9 at 6:23 AM



**The Mueller And Rooks Families** sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the Rydell family.

April 8 at 4:14 PM



**Love, Mary & Brett Freedman** sent a Treasured Lilies Spray to the Rydell family.

April 6 at 10:17 AM





# Tribute Wall

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**Ana Zarraga, David, Maria & Elena** sent a Beautiful Dreams to the Rydell family.



April 6 at 10:16 AM



**Ana Zarraga, David, Maria & Elena** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Ralph.



April 6 at 10:16 AM



**Loraine Maki** posted:

Dr Rydell was amazing. I worked at St Joseph Hospital and he was always thought of very highly. He always told me hello and smiled. We also went to church together and had many talks. Great man and also his family. Keeping you in my prayers. 🙏❤️

April 5 at 3:28 PM



**Michael Chernoff** June 4 at 10:55 AM

There is no one like Dr. Ralph Rydell. My wife is alive today due to his counseling, actions, and advice. Please keep in mind that he was retired when he went into action for us. I will keep him in my memories for the rest of my life. I can honestly say I kind of loved this man.



**Ron And Mary Seeley** April 11 at 10:39 AM

As a Neuro-Ophthalmologist starting practice in Tampa in 1972, I had the privilege of sharing patient care with Dr. Rydell for many years. He was extremely competent, caring, compassionate, and concerned for the best for each and every patient. I never hesitated referring patients to him. We served the medical community through the HCMA. Mary and I also had the privilege of being friends and neighbors to Ralph, Kathy, and their daughters when they lived on Hampton Place. We enjoyed a sailing trip together to Grenada. Mary and I offer our Condolences and Prayers to Kathy and the family. Ron and Mary Seeley



**Dr Michael Cichon** April 7 at 10:16 AM

Dr Rydell was my hero in so many ways! We worked together over the years with so many patients. He was the best surgeon for my patients, always had best result and most confidence in his skill. I did my first Boston Marathon with him! He always reminded me of Bernhard Langer, athletic, disciplined and genuine. The best he could be! Great times together medically, and socially! A very inspiring blessing to mankind! Dr Michael Cichon God Bless



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Ralph by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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