



## Roger E Rosenkranz

January 18, 1935 - January 1, 2021

Roger E. Rosenkranz, 85, of Decatur, IL passed away, January 1, 2021 at his residence with his loving family by his side.

Roger was born January 18, 1935 in East St. Louis, IL, the son of Elmo and Mary (Goin) Rosenkranz.

Roger graduated from East Saint Louis High School. He served his country in the United States Army. Roger married Ollie Catherine Metcalf on June 15, 1957 in East St. Louis, IL.

Roger endured a successful and fulfilling career in the furniture business for more than 50 years. He started his career doing window displays at Biederman Furniture Co. in St. Louis, MO and quickly became a highly-respected interior designer. He then became the merchandise manager for Sokol Furniture Co. in Birmingham, Alabama followed by manager at Leath Furniture Co. in Decatur. His dream of owning his own business became a reality in 1982 when he purchased Cohn Furniture Inc. from Mr. Gershom Cohn himself. Over the next 25 years, he shared his passion across the city through Furniture Factory, Cohn Furniture, Chair Works, and the Modern Loft. During this time, he had many dedicated employees who were like family to him, especially Lee Ballinger. He also enjoyed the company of his children and several grandchildren as he introduced them to the furniture industry, before handing the reins to his son, Rock, in 2007.

He was a member of First United Methodist Church. Roger was also a member of the Noon Kiwanis Club, served with the Decatur Human Relations Committee, was a past president of the Macon County Historical Society, VP of Decatur Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors of Downtown Decatur Council, and served on Landmark Mall Committee. He worked with the Millikin University Design for Leadership Campaign and Boy Scout Development Camp.

Roger greatly admired President Lincoln and commissioned the Abraham Lincoln statue in the Macon County Historical Museum. He spent many years organizing the annual Yesteryear Fair and spent countless hours working the various booths along with his wife, their children and grandchildren, and his wife's extended family. His philanthropy and volunteer efforts extended to the Lincoln Theatre

and Florence White Bookshop. He enjoyed traveling with his wife and numerous trips to Disney World with his grandchildren. As an animated storyteller, he could entertain friends and strangers alike with stories of his life experiences. Roger also loved music, Lake Decatur, and the St. Louis Cardinals.

Surviving is his wife, Ollie; children, Robin Grubbs (Stuart) of Decatur, IL, Rock Rosenkranz (Pam) of Decatur, IL, Lisa Walker (David) of Alpharetta, GA; grandchildren, Amanda (Russ) Wilson, Brandon (Meredith)Walker, Travis (Anne) Rosenkranz, Trisha (Andy) Roberts, Trent Rosenkranz, Allison (Young Hu) Grubbs, Ashley (Matt) Woods, Rachel Walker, Amber Grubbs; great-grandchildren, Jacob, Mary Kate, Madeline, Everett, Malia, Joshua, Meredith and Crew, and many loving nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Dorothy, Thelma, Therza, Alice, Betty, Fred, and Ron.

Private family funeral services will be held at Graceland Fairlawn Funeral Home. Entombment will be at Graceland Cemetery.

Memorials: Alzheimer's Association.

Condolences may be left to Roger's family at <http://www.gracelandfairlawn.com>.

Services will be streamed at <http://www.funeralvue.com/login/event#44510>.

# Cemetery

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## **Graceland Cemetery**

2091 N. Oakland Avenue

Decatur, IL, 62526

# Comments

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“ Roger let me buy a bedroom outfit on credit when I didn't have any credit yet. I was very young! I didn't let him down and became a lifelong customer! I also attended school with Robin. Roger was a true gentleman and always remembered details about you that made you feel so special. Although he hadn't been at the store the last several years, he did a great job grooming his son Rock to take over and fill his shoes with the same kindness and ability to make his customers feel special! He'll be missed

**Marla Hester** - January 11 at 03:55 PM

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“ Very sorry to read of Roger's passing. It was my privilege to have known him through the Noon Kiwanis Club. He was a fine, dedicated gentleman. Sincerest sympathy to all the family.

**Duane Werner** - January 07 at 01:23 PM

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“ So sorry to know of the passing of your Dad. Peace be with you all.  
Connie Bublitz  
Decatur, IL



**Connie Bublitz** - January 07 at 10:02 AM

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“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Roger E Rosenkranz.



January 06 at 07:36 PM

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“ Roger and Ollie were very active volunteers for the Macon County Historical Society. In the 1990's they helped a lot at the Yesteryear Fair on Labor Day week-ends.

I often stopped by Cohn Furniture to chat and discuss plans with them.

They were fun to chat with. Once, we had chatted about 20 minutes. I made the comment that there had been no customers in the store during that time and that concerned me. Roger, as usual, had an answer: George, this is NOT a Kroger store, it's a FURNITURE store !! To further make his point, he took me into the staff break room and showed me the large chart he had made, It listed all the furniture stores in Decatur when he bought the store and then listed all the other stores with their beginning and ending dates - Cohn's obviously didn't need a crowd to be successful - They knew how to sell furniture - and help the community, - for a long time. (Its still going....)

I can't stop until I reminisce about just a few of our other volunteers who also thought it was great fun to volunteer with them - like Martha Montgomery, Don and Sally Wachter, Don and Fran Minton, Merritt and Helen Pease - and many other CAN DO folks.

written by George Batson

George Batson - January 06 at 04:24 PM

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“ I have several best memories of Uncle Roger on the back porch drinking coffee and making jokes, but my best memory was his stories about his experiences in Birmingham, AL in the 60's. Uncle Roger believed in human rights and was a pioneer of those rights while in Birmingham. I admired Uncle Roger so much and am so grateful he was a part of my life. I will miss you Uncle Roger. I love you.  
Carol Maggart (niece)

Carol Maggart - January 06 at 11:48 AM

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“ Memories 44" Sonnet was purchased for the family of Roger E Rosenkranz.



January 06 at 10:11 AM

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“ Robin, I was sorry to hear of your father's passing. My deepest sympathy to you and your family. Cheri Sago

**Cheri Sago** - January 06 at 10:07 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Roger E Rosenkranz.



January 06 at 07:55 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Roger E Rosenkranz.



January 05 at 09:08 PM