



## Stanley Theodore Rolfe Jr

July 7, 1934 - January 23, 2023

Stanley (Stan) T. Rolfe, beloved husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, great grandfather, and brother passed away peacefully and surrounded by family on January 23, 2023, in Valley, Nebraska.

Born in Chicago on July 7, 1934, he met the love of his life, Phyllis Ann Williams in Kankakee, Illinois, and they married on August 11, 1956.

With Phyllis at his side, he earned his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in civil engineering at the University of Illinois and began his career at U.S. Steel. In 1969, he and his family moved to Lawrence, Kansas. At the University of Kansas he served as a long-time professor of civil engineering and in a variety of other roles for over four decades. He leaves behind a professional legacy that includes several editions of a co-authored textbook, numerous awards and recognitions, and induction into the National Academy of Engineering.

At KU, he became a diehard Jayhawks basketball and football fan regardless of their records. As with so many other interests, he passed his enthusiasm on to his family. Family was always of great importance to Stan. Annual family vacations to Vail, Colorado, surrounded by his wife, children, their spouses, grandchildren, and great grandchildren brought him great joy.

Stan's faith also was especially important to him whether it be attending

services, Bible study, or serving on church committees and boards. He lived his Christian faith every day.

Stan was ever optimistic and grateful for whatever life sent his way and faced his final days with love and joy.

Stan is survived by Phyllis, his beloved and loving wife of more than 66 years, children David Rolfe (Brenda), Pam McCarville (Pat), and Kathy Vigil (Jeff) and 11 grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and brothers Tom Rolfe and Richard Rolfe (Susan). He was preceded in death by his granddaughter, Kate. Stan will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

A celebration of his life will be held in Valley, Nebraska, at St. John's Catholic Church on February 4, at 11AM. A celebration will also be held in early June 2023 at Plymouth Congregational Church in Lawrence, Kansas, with details to come. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the University of Kansas School of Engineering—Civil Engineering Department or Plymouth Congregational Church, Lawrence, Kansas.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Service

FEB 4. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church  
307 East Meigs Street  
Valley, NE 68064

# Tribute Wall

CD

“ I only had two first cousins and they were both slightly older than me. So when Phyllis started bringing her high school boyfriend to family gatherings I was in awe. So to me he was "Skip". And even though, because of distance, we rarely saw each other I will always remember him as a kind, fun loving, and warm hearted family member.

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**Carol Ewald Dodd** - January 29, 2023 at 08:45 AM

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“ My family feels so fortunate to know the Rolfe family. I met Pam and her siblings in high school and Stan and Phyllis both have always taken interest in my life through the years. I especially got to reconnect when my eldest son wanted to pursue engineering in college. Stan was generous to meet with Lander and discuss the KU program. When Lander chose the KU program, he checked on him to make sure he was getting along. Stan was such a credit to the KU engineering department and passionate about the program. He loved KU sports almost as much as his family and was so very proud of their endeavors. My heart breaks for your loss and you all are in my prayers.

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**Sarah Wamsley** - January 28, 2023 at 08:28 PM