W. "Rod" Rodman Snelling

FEB 10, 1931 - AUG 13, 2018

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W. "Rod" Rodman Snelling

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W. Rodman Snelling

Rod Snelling died on Monday, August 13 of complications following heart surgery. Son of Beatrice Bamforth and Samuel William Snelling, Rod was destined to make a difference in the world through his devotion to private-independent school education. A graduate of Deerfield Academy, MA, Rod first saw private school management under the leadership of legendary Deerfield Head, Frank Boyden. Rod went on to Bowdoin College and married Anne Kurtz after they graduated. Rod joined the army and had two children, Roxanne and Glenn, and pursued his doctorate in education from the University of Virginia.

Rod started as a math teacher but quickly moved to Headmaster of Detroit Country Day School, MI, as the youngest Head in the country at the time. There, he led the school through a period of large growth before taking a year-long sabbatical. He then moved to Wilmington, DE, to lead The Tatnall School from 1968-1976. While Head, he created a 7-term schedule to make more efficient use of time, space and personnel. While the Nova only lasted a couple years, he was 50 years before his time in his vision, as this type of schedule is now being adopted by private-independent schools across the country to give students a “21st Century” education.

During his last year as Head, Rod and Anne founded Independent School Management, a consulting and research firm which is devoted to the management and function of private independent schools, located in Wilmington. Over the 43 years since its inception, thousands of administrators and schools in North America and American schools abroad have benefited from his theory, research, and analysis.

Following Anne’s death in 2011 after 58 years of marriage, Rod found another true love in Marge Bonetti. Missing him greatly are his wife of 6 years, Marge, his daughter Roxanne (Rob) Higgins, his son Glenn Snelling (Andrea Dickerson), three grandchildren Brian (Beth) Elliott, Lauren Elliott and Morgan Snelling (Greg Plover) and two great-grandchildren Samantha Elliott and Mia Plover.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to a private-independent school you think is making a difference.

A memorial service will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, Concord Pike, at 3:30 pm on Tuesday, August 21, 2018.

Please sign the online guestbook located on this site.

Events

W. "Rod" Rodman Snelling
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Memorial Service

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

3:30 PM ET

Doubletree Hotel
4727 Concord Pike, Wilmington DE 19803

Tribute Wall

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RD

Roger Dillow posted:

I join many others in expressing my gratitude for all that I learned from Rod and my condolences to Roxanne, her family, and the ISM family of employees.Roger Dillow

August 29 at 9:31 AM

KZ

Kristin Zigo posted:

Roxanne - my condolences to you and your family. You gave me my first job after college, and I learned so much. I enjoyed being a part of the ISM family and being just a small part of your father's impact on schools. His guidance for schools made such a difference.Take care,Kristin (Dworsky) Zigo

August 23 at 1:49 PM

TM

Tc Megahan posted:

Our prayers for the family today on the loss of a great guy and visionary leader. I appreciated his direct and non nonsense approach and his willingness to serve others. Rest In Peace Rod, you left us an amazing legacy

August 23 at 6:39 AM

JL

Jim Lucas posted:

Roxanne and Your Family - On behalf of the men and women Members of Vistage Brandywine Valley CEO/Owner Group 3450, our sympathy and condolences to you and the ISM Family that lost your Founder this past week.You and the ISM team continue every day to recognize your Father because of the commitment to the Mission he started. Jim Lucas

August 20 at 2:11 AM

Anonymous sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Snelling family.

August 20 at 2:05 AM

Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Snelling family.

August 17 at 2:00 PM

Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring W. "Rod" by contributing to a collection of shared memories.

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