

Obituary: Captain Ralph John Cuomo, US Navy

Ralph John Cuomo, age 90, died peacefully on Sunday, March 14, 2021, at Calvary Hospice in Brooklyn, New York. He was born September 6, 1930, in New York, New York, to John Ralph and Marie (Citarella) Cuomo. Growing up on a farm in Hillsdale, New Jersey, Ralph was a Boy Scout who seemed to embrace the high moral standards of their oath and motto at an early age. He truly spent his whole life honoring God and country, staying physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight, and was remarkably and consistently loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent in every area and season of his life.

Ralph graduated in 1947 with honors from Park Ridge High School in Park Ridge, New Jersey where he lettered in baseball and basketball. Turning down a baseball scholarship to Dartmouth College, Ralph chose instead to continue to work on the books for his family's business and enrolled in Bergen County Junior College in Teaneck, New Jersey taking night classes until he received his diploma in 1949. Ralph then graduated again with honors in 1951 from Iona College in New Rochelle, New York with a Bachelor's in Business Administration where he made such a good impression during his internship with Haskins and Sells that they hired and retained him in their employ for over a decade. Ralph would soon begin to intertwine careers in both the areas of finance and the military for the rest of his life.

Ralph was then accepted into the Graduate School of Business at New York University. While concluding his Master's of Business Administration, Ralph enlisted in the United States Navy and completed Officer's Candidate School in Bayonne, N.J. in 1953 and was stationed at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California serving as an ensign during the Korean War. The timing was so compressed that Ralph's father John had to hand deliver Ralph's Master's thesis to NYU faculty for him because he had already reported for active duty. Haskins and Sells held Ralph's position with them the entire time Ralph was on active duty in the Navy and, upon returning, he was commended by his boss as the only man had ever seen return from military service having earned a CPA license and three years of government contract auditing experience. On an evening Circle Line cruise for sailors, soldiers and nurses, Ralph met and fell in love with his bride to be. On July 17, 1954 he married nurse Catherine Dolores Farrell. In 1955 Ralph was licensed as a Certified Public Accountant. Ralph continued to serve in the United States Navy Supply Corps Reserves and rose in rank to Captain and remained in active duty, and served as a member of the United States Naval Supply Corps Foundation as well, until his death. Ralph's beloved wife Catherine predeceased him on December 20, 2014. He was proud to establish a scholarship in his wife's name for the benefit of military spouses' academic advancement (see link below for USSC scholarship donations).

Ralph lived most of his married life in Brooklyn, New York. In 1965 Ralph joined the Hearst Corporation and advanced to the position of treasurer and controller of the company and its Foundation and remained in their employ as a consultant until his death. Ralph's tireless diligence, brilliant, conservative yet visionary acumen in

finances, exceptional leadership, and humble personability allowed him to wisely establish and prosper Hearst's Employee Pension Plan and Foundation for decades, serving families and worthy causes touching every imaginable area of human endeavor and need. In his role with the Hearst Foundation Ralph was proud to oversee the Senate Youth Program where he chaperoned qualifying High School students in a week-long intensive immersion experience in civil government where he was privileged to interact personally with Senators and every sitting President from Richard Nixon to Barack Obama.

As an accomplished chess player, Ralph won numerous awards including the Kings County Championship. He was an active member of Our Lady of Angels Roman Catholic Church, serving on their Parish Council as well as coaching boys' basketball and establishing girls' and boys' swim teams by procuring the use of the Armory pool in Sunset Park. Ralph loved ballroom dancing with his dear Catherine - especially in their Bay Ridge living room - and dominating the father-daughter dance competitions in his four daughters' high schools. Ralph was a member of the Community/Officer's Club at Fort Hamilton Army base where he was active in the ecumenical chapel services serving in the areas of church finance and adult Christian education. Whether enjoying fireworks on the waterfront, hosting family celebrations in the club restaurant, shopping in the PX, watching war films with fellow veterans, or enjoying bowling and burgers, the library or the museum with his grandchildren, Ralph and his family were known and loved in this "home away from home". Ralph also loved bridge, golf, hunting and fishing.

A friend of the family, borrowing from Walt Whitman's "O Captain! My Captain" wrote this couplet to honor Ralph John Cuomo,

"O Captain! My Captain! Rise up and hear the bells;
For you have run your race and you have run it well!"

Immediate family members who remain to honor Ralph and celebrate his life are Ralph's sister, Joanna Scott Meyers; his children Dolores (spouse Richard) Germano, Kathleen (spouse Marcin) Ficenes, Laura Ann Cuomo, and Theresa (spouse Stephen) Smith; his grandchildren Lindsay (spouse Clinton) Mountfort, Blanche Smith, Silas Smith, and Isaac Smith; and a great-grandson Jonathan Mountfort. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions there will be a small private internment at Holy Rood Cemetery in Westbury, N.Y. where he will be buried alongside his beloved wife. A Memorial Mass and other memorial celebrations will be planned for the future.

TO MAKE DONATIONS TO THE CATHERINE CUOMO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW AND FOLLOW ALL PROMPTS - THANK YOU
AND GOD BLESS YOU!

https://www.usnscf.com/Foundation/pages/QuickLinksWays_To_Give