

Ralph Julian Kovach

Ralph, a.k.a. Ralphie, Uncle Ralph was welcomed into the arms of all who loved and went before him on Friday, September 24, 2021. He went suddenly after a long battle with COPD. He tried, but the cigarettes got the best of him.

Ralph was born to William and Jean Kovach on August 17, 1954, in Wausau, WI, weighing in at a whopping 10lbs 13oz. Ralph did everything early, graduating at 17 and striking out on his own soon after. He moved with his "favorite" sister to Phoenix, AZ in 1972 and never looked back.

He began working for Lucky Stores in 1973 and worked his way to the top. After Lucky Stores closed in Arizona, he went on to work for ABCO Stores, which also closed. He found his niche with the Basha's Corp. and became store manager for A.J.'s Fine Foods and other Basha's stores. In 2000, Ralph was named manager of the year for the state of Arizona by Progressive Grocer, who acknowledged the recipients of this award as "representing the cream of the crop, with skills and dedication that set them apart from the rest of the pack."

After a bad patch emotionally and physically, Ralph retired in 2010. He moved to Prescott, AZ in 2011 to be near his mom and sister.

Ralph will be remembered for his irreverent sense of humor and his great ability to play the keyboard without reading music!

Ralph and his friend Thom traveled extensively and he came to love cruising, especially times at sea as he said it was the only time he could truly relax. In later years, Ralph became a great NASCAR fan, and he was cremated in his favorite Joey Logano t-shirt!

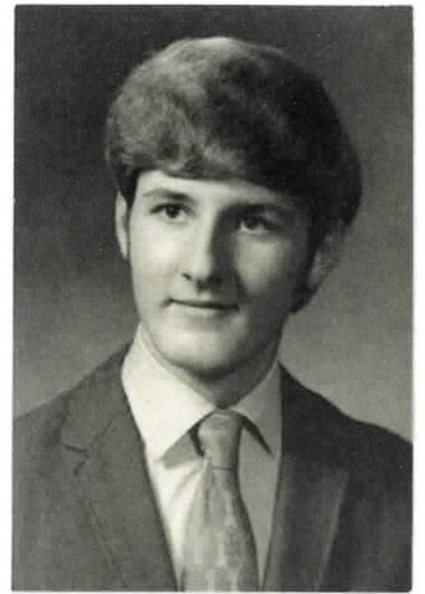
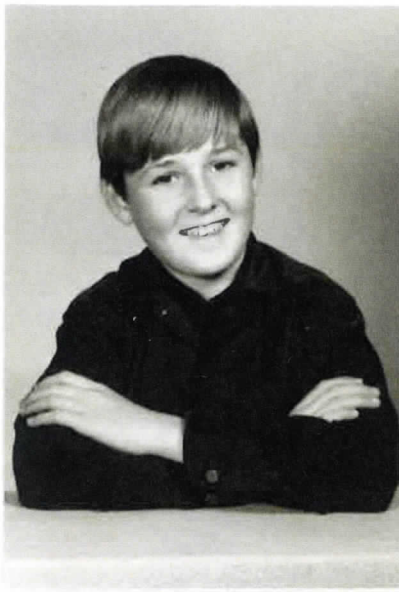
Ralph is survived by two brothers, Stan (Cheryll) Kovach, Stevens Point, WI, Marvin (Marian) Kovach, DePere, WI, sister Jodie (Bob) Herod, Prescott, AZ, favorite Auntie, Phyllis Bliese, Wausau, WI and numerous nieces and nephews who loved him a lot because he always talked to them as if they were just little adults.

Celebrations of Ralph's life will take place in Meadview, AZ, San Diego, CA and DePere, WI at later dates.

When you think of Ralph, please laugh at a favorite memory as that is what he would have wanted!

Ralph's Motto:

Why live to be 80, if you can do it in 40!



*In Loving Memory
of*



Ralphie

HAMPTON
FUNERAL HOME

240 SOUTH CORTEZ
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA 86303

*Somewhere over the rainbow, way up high
There's a land that I heard of once in a lullaby
Somewhere over the rainbow, skies are blue
And the dreams that you dare to dream
Really do come true
Someday I'll wish upon a star
And wake up where the clouds are far behind
me
Where troubles melt like lemon drops
Away above the chimney tops
That's where you'll find me
Somewhere over the rainbow
Bluebirds fly
Birds fly over the rainbow
Why then, oh why can't I?
If happy little bluebirds fly
Beyond the rainbow
Why, oh why can't I?*

In Loving Memory

of

Ralph Julian Kovach

Born

*August 17, 1954
Wausau, Wisconsin*

Passed Away

*September 24, 2021
Prescott, Arizona*

*There will be a Memorial Service
at a later date*