



Raymond True

June 29, 1934 - October 22, 2013

Raymond S. True, 79, passed away Tuesday, October 22, 2013 at Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Illinois. He was born June 29, 1934 in Lowell, MA, the only child of the late Madeleine (nee Farrell) and the late Sylvester "Dusty" True. Colonel True loved life and all of its challenges, his country and his family. Raymond was a leader and believer in men and their ideals. The Colonel was a true Conservative who served his Country through his commitment to and service in the United States Air Force, and as Chairman of the Republican Assembly of Lake County (RALC) for 12 years. Raymond received his MBA from the University of Chicago and was enrolled in its Ph.D. program. He was a collector and "Classic Comics" expert, and was referred to many as "The Classics King." Loving husband of Doreen (nee Jambrosek) ... My happiness, my heart, my soul, my life, my strength, my protector, and my best friend; proud father of Stephen (Janet), Richard (Stephanie), and Thomas True; grandfather of Alison, Kathryn, Dustin, Madeleine, Jennifer, Christopher, Cindy and Emily; brother-in-law of Peter, John, Gerald and James, and is survived by many nieces and nephews. Visitation will be Monday, October 28, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Burnett-Dane Funeral Home, 120 W. Park Ave. (1 block west of Milwaukee Ave.) Libertyville, IL 60048. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 29, 2013 at St. Joseph Church, 121 E. Maple Ave., Libertyville. Please pray for Raymond's family who must live their lives without his unconditional love. Donations can be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, St. Jude Children's

Research Hospital and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. For info: 847-362-3009
or please sign the guestbook at www.burnettdane.com.

Tribute Wall

MM

“ *Condolences to Doreen. You were with The Colonel 24-7 through this. The Lake County conservative movement has lost a gallant leader and friend. Those of us who had the privilege of knowing and working with Raymond will miss him. Hey Raymond, Say hello to the great Ronald Reagan and shake his hand for all of us. ;) Mayo (Pete) McCarthy*

Mayo (Pete) McCarthy - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

TT

“ *I was lucky enough to visit him Sunday afternoon and talk with him a bit about many things with Doreen.*

While his body had betrayed him, be sure, The Col was still there and as sharp as ever.

He went down fighting and with love.

Thomas True - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

GG

“ *The Colonel (and Mrs Colonel) and I went out for breakfast at the Birchwood Grill nearly every Sunday morning when I was living or working somewhere around Illinois even holidays. We traded stories and life experiences and always talked way too long. I learned a lot from Raymond and Doreen. I hope they picked something up from me as well. I didn't grow up around educated and accomplished people. I didn't know what to think of them. I found Raymond to be a real human person (something I had never before thought of accomplished people as being). We had very similar thoughts, ideas, and logic but different life experiences. What I admired the most about Ray True is that he was BOLD! He knew right from wrong and had no problem standing for the right. Nothing seemed to penetrate him because he had solid core values. I watched the Republican (and Democrat) party disrespect him many times (and that bothered me a lot) but it never phased Raymond. He didn't care. I liked that he was strong and courageous. If we had more Raymond True's in the world, it would definitely be a better place, but men like the Colonel don't appear too often. Go Rest High Colonel. We'll meet again someday.*

Guy G Garrison - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

TR

“ *Ray was a man of clear principle, who carried a passion for our country, and exercised that passion through active engagement and leadership with others he influenced. His stand for traditional values of honesty, integrity and selfless service in our societal structures (government, schools, etc.) was a compelling call to all around him. I had the pleasure of knowing Ray through participation years ago in co-founding the RALC. May God grant him eternal peace and rest.*

Tom Rowland - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM



“ Tuesday, my Dad, Col. Raymond S. True USAF Ret. passed away after a series of illnesses that he has been fighting since February. He had been a C-130 navigator, during the 50's he was part of the "Moby Dick Project" in which the USAF used high altitude balloons with refrigerator sized cameras attached to spy upon the USSR and eastern Europe. Later on he was the Civil Engineer for Gen. Billy Mitchell Field near Milwaukee. He also graduated from The University of Chicago. He was an avid Notre Dame fan and liked the Red Sox and The Bears. Among some of his hobbies included active in politics, Republican, community service projects such as Fire departments, libraries and other such issues. One life long hobby he had was the collection of Classic Comics and Classic Illustrated books. He had collected them ever since he was a child as my Grandma True would tell me when I would spend summers with her. He had many friends and a loving wife, my step mom Doreen True My two older brothers Steve, named after him and Rich, who lives in St. Louis as well. He also has 8 grandchildren and one recently got married in October 2012 in which he attended. I was lucky enough to see him this past Sunday while he was in the hospital. Unfortunately they had him on morphine and he was not able to talk until about the last hour of my visit. But sure enough, when he was waking up he was as sharp as ever and had the same spirit and zest he had always had for life. While things sure could have been better among my father and I am glad for all we did and for all we shared. As a name plate said in his home den; Maj Raymond True, Planet Commander. Salute!

June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

PM

“ *Requiem Aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis: Requiescant in pace. Amen.*

I will never stop being grateful for Ray & Doreen's early encouragement and support for my political aspirations, and their work to provide a context in which patriots in Illinois could be informed, educated, connected, and make themselves heard in the halls of government and smoke-filled rooms of political operatives. Ray True was an American in full.

The warrior has fought the good fight. May he rest in peace, may he be long remembered, and may his example inspire others to continue his great work.

Paul Mitchell - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

SR

“ *Richard, Steven & Thomas,*

Robin & I, along with my Aunt Sandra, want to extend our deepest sympathies in the passing of your Dad. Though my memories are more with the 3 of you and your grandparents at Long Pond, I know you all thought very highly of your Dad. Let happy memories carry you through this difficult time.

Susan (Salwa) Rowbotham, Robin (Salwa) Sasek, Sandra Farrell

Susan Salwa Rowbotham - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

WG

“ *Please accept my sincere sympathies on the passing of a true patriot and American. I was proud to serve with him in the 440th Airlift Wing for many years.*

Warren Grover - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

JT

“ We have benefitted for having known Raymond True... he will be missed... RIP...
My condolences to Doreen and the family...

Joe Tragesser - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

JK

“ Like so many others in the Lake County GOP, we grew found of "The Colonel" and considered him a leader among men. He will be missed!

Jack and Annie Koenig - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

TD

“ Ray was a an officer, a gentleman, a leader, a patriot and a most valued friend for many years. His friends and his country with miss him profoundly.Ray could be counted on to get the toughest of missions done on-time and with style!!

Ted and Betty Drier - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

CH

“ He's in Gods hands now!

Chuck - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

JR

“ Ray was a colleague and mentor, but more importantly a great friend! His spirit lives on and hopefully can provide you with comfort, Doreen. Jean & I will say a special prayer for him AND YOU>>>>

Jim Rebholz - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

CR

“ Doreen, I was sorry to learn of Ray's passing. I have many memories of our working together on projects and deployments. Ray was very knowledgeable in many areas and very thorough in his actions. We shared the same birthday just not the same year. We will always have the good memories. I pray God will give you peace and comfort at this difficult time. Be thankful for the many good memories. Art & Annette

Col Art Cernohous USAF, Retired - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

MN

“ Ray and I shared a lifelong love of Classics Illustrated that first brought us together in 1968. In the early years we corresponded regularly. In the past 20 years, I enjoyed my yearly visits to his and Doreen's home, spending time with them both. I will miss our times together as well as our many conversations. Farewell Ray.

Mike Nicastre - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

CB

“ I am so sorry to hear of Ray's passing....He was a very good friend and co-worker of mine....May the Lord welcome him to a kind and peaceful home... Casey.....

Col. Casey Backes - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

WJ

“ From 1978 onward, Raymond True was a generous friend and trusted mentor. His pioneering efforts established the hobby of collecting *Classics Illustrated*, for which thousands of fellow enthusiasts owe him countless hours of pleasure. He also laid the foundation for the scholarly exploration of CI history, for which I, among other students of the publication, remain forever grateful. The Colonel made his mark in so many ways, but for those of us in the *Classics Illustrated* family he will always be the Founding Father. My thoughts, prayers, and affection are with Doreen and the True family. Ave atque vale.

William B. Jones, Jr. - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

JH

“ Joanne and Jim sent you our sincere sympathy. Ray was a very good friend, mentor, and fellow Reservist at the 440th TAW. We have great respect for his intelligence. We have fond memories of good times with Ray and Doreen attending Notre Dame football games. The Huhta's

Joanne & Jim Huhta, Sr. - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

WM

“ Thanks to Ray and Doreen for being gracious hosts when I visited your 'classics heaven'. Ray's contributions in building our classics hobby will not be forgotten. My condolences to the family and many close friends.

Wayne Munson
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Wayne Munson - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

MC

“ Ray True family. Our prayers are with the entire family, enjoyed many good years with Ray in the USAFR. Anna Marie and Marv

Marvin C.Meyer - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

LC

“ I extend my heartfelt condolences to Doreen and to Ray's whole family. Ray was a great inspiration to me and my son Eric, as he was to countless other Classics Illustrated collectors and scholars. Decades ago, he recognized that a floundering comic series was in fact an important phenomenon of 20th century illustrated literature. I will always remember his, and Doreen's, gracious welcoming nature and the hours of inexhaustible pleasure he spent with us during our two visits over the past five years. A personally signed copy of his Classics Newsletter from the 1970s is a cherished memento. We gratefully honor Colonel True's rich, valuable life. A pilot has ascended to "Classics Heaven."

Larry Chalif - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

RB

“ God speed Ray to my classmate and yhe 440th.

Richard Bauer - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

CM

“ I will miss my friend and adviser on AF matterswe solved so many of the worlds problems over a martini.

Col Edward Mathews - June 29, 2018 at 02:05 PM

WH

“ Ray True will be greatly missed. His leadership and unwaivering commitment to his beliefs motivated him to accomplish many things. I enjoyed learning that Ray was from Lowell, Mass and was Red Sox fan. He knew how to pick winners, didn't he? My sincere sympathies to Doreen and the family.

Willard Helander - April 27, 2018 at 06:16 AM

JJ

“ We have lost a great man, a multi-faceted gentlemen, certainly a modern Renaissance figure. Although I originally dubbed his second floor accumulation of CI material "Classics Heaven," it became THE place on earth for all Classics Illustrated collectors, researchers and enthusiasts. Well organized from the start (a reflection of Ray's military background), it was a constant source of delight - and hopefully may continue in the future.

A "True" pioneer in CI fandom, his efforts along with others in identifying the printings by HRN grew to eighteen pages in the Overstreet guide, more than any other comic series.

A serious man with heavy interests in politics and aviation history, he nonetheless had a great sense of humor. I remember vividly his uproarious laughter over dinner one night in recalling the black comedy, "Dr. Strangelove." I will miss you, Raymond!

John C. Haufe, Jr. - April 27, 2018 at 06:16 AM

EB

“ Goodbye my friend. It has been an honor and pleasure to have known and worked with you during my life. Your intelligence, and patience towards analyzing situations, and problem solving, has left a respectful, lasting impression upon my life. Thank You, --May you rest in Peace Raymond. With Great Respect Lt/Col Edward Brown 440th Command Post Friend

Edward Brown - April 27, 2018 at 06:16 AM

LB

“ Dear Rich and family,
I am so very sorry for your loss. May your memories comfort you
and keep you strong. God bless you.
Lisa Black and family

Lisa Black - April 27, 2018 at 06:16 AM

DU

“ Ray & Doreen,
A few lines from Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar":
Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea
Ray was adroit at plotting his course through life with the stars as
his guide.
What a great cohort during our years at the 64th TAS, 928th TAG
and the 440th TAW!
He had a wonderful ability to create an excellent plan and to see it
through to completion. It was my honor to serve with Ray in each of
these AF units.
You will be missed by all, Raymond.
With our love to you and Doreen,
Don & Sandy French, 440th TAW DCR

Donald B. French COL USAF - April 27, 2018 at 06:16 AM



“ My sincere condolences to the family. I hope that the words found at
Rev. 20:13, 14 comfort you during this painful time.

April 27, 2018 at 06:16 AM

AA

“ Just this day I found out a great man passed away in October and I am indeed saddened. For my good friend and mentor. Only a few extraordinary people make a difference, and today I write of and about you because I am so proud to recognize you along with my father, as my greatest mentors. Everyone can feel a great sense of ease because nothing said here, no matter how beautiful, will add any more decoration to the life you have lived. You discharged your office of life with utmost dignity and your reputation is sealed. You shared your wisdom with many and gave credence to that profound truth - that despite all odds, we have in us the power to make for ourselves what we want to be. What was important to you was honesty of purpose pursued for the greater good. You always said integrity over success, always, and I will never forget that. I treasured the light of your inner compass shining at the often forgotten end of the moral spectrum. You did not connect with everyone, but what an education for the one's that did. You connected with me in a way that changed my life. Although some of my appreciation may not have been visible, it is surely infinite. It is said that you measure yourself by the people who measure themselves by you. These words were especially coined for a man like you. ATTENTION, SALUTE, over and out.

Alan Ault - April 27, 2018 at 06:16 AM

A4

“ I am so sorry these words are late as I just found out today of Ray's passing. I am deeply saddened and my respects to Doreen and family.

Only a few extraordinary people make a difference, and today I speak of and about Col. True because I am so proud to call him my mentor. Everyone can feel a great sense of ease because nothing said here, no matter how beautiful, will add any more decoration to the life he lived. Ray gave credence to that profound truth - that despite all odds, we have in us the power to make for ourselves what we want to be. What was important to him was honesty of purpose pursued for the greater good. He always said integrity over success, always, and I will never forget that.

How about the light in his inner compass shining at the often forgotten end of the moral spectrum, yeah, you know what I mean. Although my appreciation may not have been visible, it is surely infinite. It is said that you measure yourself by the people who measure themselves by you. No greater words could be spoken here among many and none better deserved.

**ATTENTION,
SALUTE!
Over and out..**

Alan Ault, 440TH - April 27, 2018 at 06:16 AM

SD

“ My very best regards to you for the biography of Raymond. My memory of him is connected with the Classic Comics, I had a fair-sized collection of CC's (CI) accumulated in the 1950s and early 1960s. When I returned from Vietnam in 1967, I had basically forgotten about them, though they lay in a stack in my parents' home. For reasons I can't recall, I was with a friend in a used journals and comics store about 1970. There I ran into one of Raymond's catalogs, which told me much about the series I'd never known, and got me collecting again. It was from Raymond that I completed my collection of 169 Classics. In 1980, having returned to college, but low on funds, I was compelled to sell the collection to a fellow in Toronto, whose name I've forgotten, for 1,000 dollars. There were many first editions, so they'd be worth much more now. I never forgot the Classics, but for some reason I couldn't remember the name of the man who provided me with so many Classics, even though we'd spoken by phone several times. For many years I would, from time to time, try to remember his name.

Just now I happened to come across a book for sale from Amazon (William B. Jones, 'Classics Illustrated: A Cultural History.' 2nd edition (Jefferson, NC, 2011, and there were a number of reviews of the book, all positive. Imagine my astonishment upon finishing the 4th review, dated March 5, 2002, and signed by "Raymond S. True." An unbelievable and happy surprise. Of course I copied the review (and some others), and your obituary.

It was sad, however, to find that I was two and a half years too late to communicate with him.

I put the invaluable printout information in a safe place. I am awfully glad to have it.

All the Best

*Douglas W Sims
3516A Bayview Avenue, Brooklyn*

Ney York 11224

718-891-6684

dougsims1945@yahoo.com

PS I was living in Kansas City at the time I was in touch with Raymond, and the little store (now probably gone?) was in a small town, Grandview, south of KC.

Sims, Douglas - April 27, 2018 at 06:16 AM

CP

“ I had the honor of meeting Colonel True fighting taxes in Illinois. I am grateful for his service to the Country and his service to the taxpayers of Illinois. To his family I am sorry for your loss. May you find peace in that I am sure he is clinking glasses with some of America's greatest up in Heaven and having a hardy laugh.

Cathy Peschke - November 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM