



Rolf Hienz-Wilhelm Theen

February 20, 1937 - October 16, 2019

Dr. Rolf H.W. Theen, 82, of Sarasota, FL, passed away peacefully on October 16, 2019. Rolf was the husband of Norma Plunkett Theen, with whom he raised a family in Lafayette, IN and shared 60 years of marriage. Rolf was a warm and loving husband and father who cherished his family. He is survived by wife, Norma of Sarasota, FL; daughter, Tanya (Jonathan) Hart of Sarasota, Florida; son, Terrell Theen of Oviedo, FL; two grandsons, Tanner Theen and Parker Theen of Oviedo, FL; and sister, Angelika (Hans Werner) Stiewa of Germany.

Rolf was born in Stadthagen, Germany, first visiting the United States as an exchange student in 1953, and becoming a naturalized citizen in 1962. He received a Bachelor magna cum laude from Manchester University in 1959, a Master of Arts certified with high distinction in 1962 and a Doctor of Philosophy in 1964 from Indiana University. Rolf was a political science educator -- from assistant professor to associate professor at Iowa State University, 1964-1970, and to full professor, also serving as Director of Graduate Studies, at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN, from 1971 until his retirement as professor emeritus in 2004. He was a Russian consultant and translator for United States Joint Publications, Arlington, VA, and did extensive research and travel abroad during his career. With numerous publications, Rolf's primary works include "Lenin: Genesis and Development of a Revolutionary" and "Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Seven Countries" (coauthored by Dr. Frank L. Wilson), a textbook used in universities

throughout the country with four editions published from 1986 – 2000. Rolf was an avid Purdue basketball fan, holding season tickets for years, and also enjoyed nature, music, stamp collecting, and books. He acquired a personal library during his lifetime made up of thousands of books, including many rare Russian volumes that were the only copies to survive the Cold War. He donated his collection to the University of Wisconsin in 2015. In retirement, Rolf loved wintering in Sarasota, Florida and summering in Lafayette, IN, ultimately relocating permanently to Sarasota, FL in 2015. He was active in the Lafayette Church of the Brethren, and enjoyed dual membership at Beneva Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Sarasota. A memorial service will be celebrated at 10:30 AM Sunday, November 24, 2019 at Beneva Christian Church, 4835 South Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL 34233. A celebration of life will be held at the Lafayette Church of the Brethren, 1107 South 18th Street, Lafayette, IN 47905 on June 13, 2020. Remembrances may be made to either church, or to Heifer International.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV **24**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Beneva Christian Church
4835 South Beneva Road
Sarasota, FL 34233

Tribute Wall



“ *Rolf Hienz-Wilhelm Theen*

October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ *Rolf Hienz-Wilhelm Theen*

January 28, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Rolf Hienz-Wilhelm Theen.*



November 19, 2019 at 01:26 PM