



Raymond C. Nuytkens

October 17, 1925 - February 1, 2022

Raymond Nuytkens of Jupiter, FL, and formerly of Pleasantville, NY, passed away peacefully on February 1, 2022 after 96 years of a beautiful life well lived. He leaves his beloved wife of 69 years Carol Haight Nuytkens, his son Peter Nuytkens and his wife Margaret of Franklin, MA, daughter Pamela Davis Pagano and her husband Vince of Jupiter, FL, five grandsons, one granddaughter, and two great grandchildren.

Ray was born on October 21, 1925 in Gerritsen Beach, Brooklyn, NY, son of a Belgian father and French mother. A World War II veteran, he served in the infantry in France and Germany and took part in the liberation of the Dachau Concentration Camp. When he and his platoon traveled through France, it was bitter cold and many men suffered frostbite, but not Ray. He used the tap dancing skills he learned as a youth to keep from freezing while standing watch.

When he returned from the war he enrolled at Pratt Institute where he met the love of his life, Carol, and they both graduated with degrees in interior design. They moved from Brooklyn to Pleasantville, NY where they designed and built their dream house in the modernist style of Frank Lloyd Wright on a hillside, blasting away rock that they used to create beautiful stone walls lining the 32 steps to the front door. Their welcoming living room, a favorite gathering place for family and friends, was striking with its wall of floor-to-ceiling windows

looking out on their beautiful view of trees, rocks and lush carpets of moss where they enjoyed watching the birds and squirrels for more than 50 years. He will always be remembered by his grandchildren for his fastidious vacuuming of the moss!

Ray commuted into NY City for 36 years working in retail store planning and design. He was Vice President of Bonwit Teller and finished his career as Vice President of Hambrecht Terrell International where he designed stores for Saks Fifth Avenue, Bloomingdales, FAO Schwartz, and Marshall Fields, as well as other stores around the world including in London, Asia, and Australia.

He continued his long family tradition of sailing, buying an Ensign sailboat when his children were very young and naming it for them, the Peter-Pam, with a nod to eternal youth. It was the center of many family adventures as he sailed it for more than 40 years on Long Island Sound. He and Carol loved ballroom dancing and were always the first on the dance floor – the Rainbow Room at Rockefeller Center was a particular favorite. They also loved swimming and riding the waves at East Hampton and cross-country and downhill skiing in NY and Vermont. He was a fitness buff and loved to walk—at a pace that was tough for most everyone to keep up with! Ray was active in the Chappaqua Congregational Church where he was committed to giving back by serving others. Always an optimist with a zest for life, his most frequent conversational remark in his last months was, “It’s been a good life, so what the hell!”

A Celebration of Life service is being planned for the spring or early summer.

Tribute Wall



“ *Raymond C. Nuytkens*

October 22, 2023 at 10:17 AM

CB

“ Dear Carol and family, I just happened to be looking through an old personal phone book of mine (probably 40 years old) and found names and numbers of past friends, family and coworkers.

Ray was among them. I knew that I would probably find him passed away as he was more than 20 years older than I when he was my boss at Bonwit Teller, but thought to myself "how many Ray Nuytkens could there be in the world". I just needed to know..

I was saddened to read that I missed him by only a year and a half, but happy to read that he lived a long and beautiful life. I belatedly wanted to express my condolences to you all and to share a few memories.

I was Ray's secretary for a brief time at Bonwit Teller. It was about the time that Donald Trump had bought the building on 5th Avenue and we were in transition. I had worked with Ray occasionally as my original boss at BT was the VP of Operations and Ray would come into the office from time to time.

When we moved to the 42nd Street office I was offered the job as Ray's secretary. I jumped at the chance. I knew him to be a perfect gentleman and a scholar. He was all that and more.

The very first order I was given by him was to "put calls through immediately to him for ONLY his wife Carol". I was immediately impressed. He was patient and kind with me. My typing skills were slow and spelling horrific. He gently encouraged me to USE the dictionary.

One time when Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis came into the 5th Avenue store he found me lurking around a corner trying to get a glimpse of my hero. He gently chided me and said "Connie, I think this might be called stalking". I stopped immediately. I knew he must have been disappointed in me as a secretary, but I did not want him to be disappointed in me as a human being.

There were two young architects in the office that worked with us and they both adored Ray. I watched as he fatherly took these men under his wing and leadership.

He was a father to us all and surely a child of God. I was honored to have known him, worked with him, and blessed beyond belief.

With deepest sympathy,

*Connie Buclaw Blumreich
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Connie Blumreich - April 24, 2023 at 03:54 PM