



Karl F. Nagel

February 17, 1938 - August 18, 2022

Karl F. Nagel, of Lake Forest, IL, passed away peacefully on August 18, 2022. He was 84. Mr. Nagel lived life to the fullest, on his own terms as a visionary. He was deeply dedicated to his family, friends, community, and country.

Nagel was born on Feb. 17, 1938, in Highland Park, IL, the son of European immigrants, Karl Nagel and Cecilia Studena. He grew up in Lake Forest, attended Lake Forest High School, and Knox College, where he met Barbara Fowler. The couple married in 1959. In 1960, he graduated with a BA in Economics and an ROTC commission, and then joined the US Army as a 2nd Lieutenant. He completed training in Fort Benning, GA, achieving the elite status of Airborne Ranger, which took him and his young family to Germany for an assignment overseas.

Returning to civilian life in 1964, he moved back to the Lake Forest area starting a dynamic real estate career. In the early 1970s while on a business trip to Texas, Nagel learned of the mini-warehouse concept. Finding it to be an interesting niche in the real estate sector, he pioneered this concept and built the first self-storage facility in Illinois in 1973. Nagel went on to develop and acquire millions of square feet of self-storage through various forms of syndications. The company continues today, branded as Metro Self Storage, and is recognized as one of the oldest and largest self-storage companies in the industry.

Nagel's greatest passions were upland game hunting, fishing, and riding his appaloosas western style through the forests. He had an amazing sixth sense with animals and having been certified in the Parelli Method — was a horse whisperer in his own right.

The Nagels moved to the Village of Mettawa in 1983, where they lived for the next 30 years. The 16-acre property was called "Bent Tree Farm," as it was the site of one of the only registered Native American Indian Trail Bent Trees in all of Lake County.

Nagel cared about the communities he lived in and took instrumental roles in preserving their futures. As a trustee for the Village of Mettawa for 20 years, he was influential in Costco receiving approval to be built there. He served on the Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital board for 9 years and played a significant role in building the Lake Forest Health & Fitness Center. When it was rumored that Lake Forest's Gorton Community Center was to be torn down in the early 70's, he answered a request to join the board to save the building where he had once attended school. As president of the Rotary Club, Nagel was a regular fixture at their community breakfasts and welcomed students from the Rotary exchange program into his home.

Nagel is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Barbara, his three children, Matthew (Janet) Nagel, Blair Nagel, and Joy (Mark) McGreevy, and his adored seven grandchildren, Greta, Mercedes and Vicente Nagel, Karl and Jenna Nagel, Austin and Bridget McGreevy, and also by his older sister, Ruth Laehr of Pensacola, FL.

Private services are being planned. Memorial donations may be made to Gorton Community Center <https://gortoncenter.org/donations/>

For more information, contact Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest (847) 234-9649 or www.RTfunerals.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Karl F. Nagel*



Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest - September 18, 2022 at 03:02 PM

DR

“ Dear Barbara and family,

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Karl, which surprise is softened by some highlights which come flooding back from earlier, happy times.

He was masterful in building his highly successful company. In the 60's Karl demonstrated an early and cutting-edge interest in syndicated real estate investments, featuring development and management of storage facilities.

Still there was time for hunting and fishing - he was the instigator of colorful outdoor adventures – destination not revealed to the small group of buddies until almost departure – featuring on one occasion casting for bonefish in the lagoons of Belize off the Ambergris Caye, and for barracuda just offshore. Unforgettable.

At your home in Mettawa, he told of the howling coyotes right out back at dark, as the pack celebrated their successful hunt and they gathered for the meal.

He delighted in telling of “Grandpa” Opa, and the restoration/preservation of his wonderful long-time workbench – itself a work of art as was Opa.

Active in Rotary for many years - remembered especially are the 70's and 80's in the then Lake Forest noon club. He was an important part of the club and of the community.

Wonderful times, cherished memories. What a guy! Your long marriage is a testimony to you both and your family. Please know we send our love and best wishes to you all at this time.

Sincerely,

Dick and Betsy Rutledge

Dick & Betsy Rutledge - August 31, 2022 at 03:30 PM

MG

“ *If a man is as tall as the sum of his deeds, Karl was a giant among men.*

I share in your sorrow. Marylou Gadin

Marylou Gadin - August 28, 2022 at 10:49 AM

TD

“ *I first met Karl one Sunday morning at Ed Johnson's Roughneck Ranch Stable in Mettawa. I had just moved into the stable with my horse Lucky. Ed invited me to go on a ride with him and Karl the next Sunday am. I showed up for a nice leisurely ride... little did I know ... Karl took off from the stable on his horse Fred at a full gallop heading into the woods along the Des Plaines river... Ed followed closely on his horse Penny. My horse Lucky (a full-blood Arab) took the hint and off we went for the next 2 hours. It was a breath taking event for me that lasted for over 20 years.*



Tom Dolack - August 26, 2022 at 02:32 PM