

Raymond Arthur Haeckel

February 12, 1936 ~ August 16, 2024

Our beloved father, grandfather, brother and friend, Raymond Arthur Haeckel, died on August 16, 2024. He was 88 years old.

Born on February 12, 1936, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he was the son of Rudolph Kurt Haeckel and Agnes Ida Heimann. After moving to Salt Lake City as a young boy, he graduated from West High School in 1954. He attended the University of Utah, where he was a proud member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity. While attending University, he met Karyn Ann Jensen and the two married in 1961.

Ray had a successful career in journalism and public relations. Following a position as a reporter for the KSL News Department, he joined the University of Utah staff where he served for over 35 years. Among his varied assignments at the U., he was Manager of the University News, Executive Director of Public Relations, and later Executive Director of Government, Community and Public Relations. In this last position, he worked as the University lobbyist with the Utah State Legislature. He loved his career at the University of Utah and found it invigorating being around students and faculty. During his professional years Ray also served on various boards and councils including President of Utah Business Communicators, the National Board of Directors and Western Regional Chair for The Council for the Advancement
and Support of Education, and was a board member for the Utah Opera Association and United Way of Utah.

Ray's life was one of service to his church, his family and friends. He loved the Gospel of Jesus Christ and served in numerous bishoprics, high councils and other church callings. He was a writer of "The Spoken Word" for over 25 years, and in his later years loved writing thoughts for the weekly program in his local ward. A drummer and avid tennis player, Ray lived his life with optimism and cheerfulness. He could always find a bright side to any problem or situation, and approached difficult moments with wit and humor.

One of two children, Ray is survived by his sister, Dana Barth. He was preceded in death by his wife, Karyn, and survived by his children, Heidi (Peter) Sonntag, and Lisa Chatelain. He was a devoted grandfather to seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at noon on Saturday, September 7, 2024, at the Cottonwood 4th Ward, 5565 South Neighbor Lane [1610 East], Holladay, UT. There will be a visitation from 11:00 to 11:50 am, prior to the services.