

## Ralph's Memorial Service

To begin Ralph's memorial service, I want our daughter, Lara, to read the words of her Father which he posted on his blog in 2011 before realizing his Caribbean cruising dream:

### **RALPH'S NIGHTWATCH** **The most beautiful sailboat in the world!**



“Hello. I'm Ralph Knoerr and this is my sailboat, Nightwatch, A Durbeck 46. 46.75 on deck, 13.66 beam, 5.17 draft with 1307 sq. ft. sail area. Great cabin with center double berth. Force 10 stove, just like real sailors. 9 years of upgrades and one of these years we will retire and you can find this kid living on island time.

I started sailing at 6 years old using my fathers tin fishing boat, an oar as a mast, another as a yardarm and an old throw rug as a sail. My Mother lost her clothes line to the project. Aye she was the scourge of the neighborhood. All the neighbors wanted my Dad to clean that mess out of his boat. That was the first of six boats. The next was a rotten Y-Flyer. Got that one at 12 years old.

That got me to my college days and then to the Navy. That was good for a mid-west lake sailor. Let see that went: college, marriage, Navy, start career, 2 kids and a C-Lark 14. That one got me my first real silver, actually pewter. Again lake sailing, but we were slowly moving south. Number 4 was a Newport 23. Pop-top, port-a-potty, alcohol stove. Had everything but a dishwasher. Yea we raced it also. Got more silver. May have been the only person in the world racing that model boat. Win a race or a series and effect the Ports-Smith rating for the entire fleet! One must always get a bigger boat. Finally to the Gulf of Mexico and a Hunter 27 named Harmony. Pressurized alcohol stove and pressurized water and a marine head, diesel engine - almost yachty.

Life goes on, kids graduate from college, get married and have successful careers in Real Estate and Medical Equipment Sales, and best of all, a super wife who has been my sailing partner for 44 years.”

**Chad’s Happy Birthday to his Dad on facebook post this June 2:** “Happy Birthday Dad! I’ll love you forever for everything you did for us! Super Dad Adventure Dad! Fair winds & following seas forever.”

**Katherine, my dear sister sent me this & added at the top, “Ralph did this!”**

**“Love your life.**

**Take pictures of everything.**

**Tell people you love them.**

**Talk to random strangers.**

**Do things that you’re scared to do.**

**Many of us die and no one remembers a thing we did.**

**Take your life and make it the best story in the world.**

**Don’t waste it”**

**- Ralph certainly didn’t!**

And I had the privilege of 'going along for the ride' with my dear husband in all his projects and adventures of a lifetime which I NEVER would have done on my own!!!! All was done to completion and perfection! That was my Ralph!

On his 76<sup>th</sup> birthday last year, Jane, my dear sister, wrote a poem about Ralph being drawn to the water, lake, sea, and ocean throughout his life:

“The water it has a voice  
and those who listen  
will hear its call:

“Come, come, come here.

Come near.”

A young boy learns to sail  
upon a lake and  
hears the voice.

“Come, come, come here.  
Come near.”

A young naval officer  
learns to navigate  
upon the oceans and  
hears the voice.

“Come, come, come here.  
Come near.”

A husband & father with  
family to raise  
upon the land and  
hears the voice.

“Come, come, come here.  
Come near.”

So with family  
upon the lakes and Gulf shores  
he sails and hears the voice.

“Come, come, come here.  
Come near.”

Plans are made and dreams  
are dreamed while upon  
these local waters he sails

and hears the voice.

“Come, come, come here.  
Come near.”

Upon a vessel, “The Nightwatch,”  
house & home he makes  
upon the Bay and hears the voice.

“Come, come, come here.  
Come near.”

A dream is lived upon the Seas  
with “Couple-Crew” he  
sails the Caribbean  
and hears the voice.

“Come, come, come here.  
Come near.”

To the land at last  
he returns  
but near the Sea and  
hears the voice.

“Stay, stay, stay here.  
Stay near.”

**AND SO WE SPREAD RALPH’S ASHES IN HIS  
BELOVED SEA**

## LET US PRAY:

Oh my Jesus, you placed Ralph into my life 58 years ago when I was 16 and I am so grateful to you for this faithful loving husband. He walks as all Christians do with the Divine gift of grace through the ultimate sacrifice of your Son for all. Ralph calls Him Saviour as do we. So as His child, we lift up to you, Ralph, your precious child, won for you with the Holy blood of Jesus. We commend him into your arms to be carried into his and all believers' everlasting home – Heaven, where You welcome all your faithful to their true home and eternal rest.

For we are all pilgrims on a journey and “Heaven is our home.”

We ask, as we do all things, in the name of Jesus, giving all praise and glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**MARY'S GOODBYE** (PAULA, MY DEAR YOUNGEST SISTER, WROTE THIS AS I SHARED WITH HER SOME OF OUR MOMENTS ON RALPH'S LAST DAY WITH ME, JUNE 1 BEFORE HIS BIRTHDAY, JUNE 2):

### “Even Beyond the Cross”

I believe, Lord, that your love, which was so evident for me, through the cross, goes even beyond that still, surrounding me now in my loss.

May the blessed times of Ralph and my life together come foremost to my mind,

remembering that your perfect love was always with us and, thereby, intertwined.

Thank you that we worshiped together, believing our lives were in your hands.

You taught us of love and forgiveness—those being your greatest commands.

You understood our weaknesses, though, and gave to us both of your grace.

Thank you that, at the right time, I'll join Ralph again in your heavenly place.

Just as you told your disciples in their boat, 'Let's cross over to the other side,'

thank you for having brought Ralph to your safe harbor, eternally there to abide.

Thank you for his 'heart,' that moved him to kiss me in the elevator that day,

and that he knew I was planning his birthday celebration, sharing my love in that way.

You say in your Word we're to rejoice in you always and again, you say, rejoice.

So I thank you, Jesus, for your steadfast love; and to you, I lift up my voice . . . .

“What a beautiful name it is, the name of Jesus!”

Ralph believed John 14:6,

“Jesus answered ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

Please join us in singing the one song Ralph requested at his memorial service:

## **What A Beautiful Name It Is**

You were the Word at the beginning  
One With God the Lord Most High  
Your hidden glory in creation  
Now revealed in You our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is  
What a beautiful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King

What a beautiful Name it is  
Nothing compares to this  
What a beautiful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us  
So Jesus, You brought heaven down  
My sin was great, Your love was greater  
What could separate us now

What a wonderful Name it is  
What a wonderful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King  
What a wonderful Name it is  
Nothing compares to this

What a wonderful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus



What a wonderful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus . . . .

How sweet is your name, Lord, how good You are  
Love to sing in the name of, love to sing of who you are.

Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You  
You silenced the boast, of sin and grave

The heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory  
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival, You have no equal  
Now and forever, God you reign

Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory  
Yours is the Name, above all names

What a powerful Name it is  
What a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King  
What a powerful Name it is  
Nothing can stand against  
What a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus

You have no rival, You have no equal  
Now and forever, God you reign

Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory  
Yours is the Name, above all names

What a powerful Name it is  
What a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King

What a powerful Name it is  
Nothing can stand against  
What a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus

What a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus  
What a powerful Name it is  
The Name of J-e-s-u-s!

## **RALPH'S GOODBYE:**

Love to my dear wife, life partner, sailing mate and co-captain! Your loving Husband, Ralph, The Great!

Love to my dearest daughter Lara, and great IT man, Anas, and talented, awesome, kind, beautiful, granddaughter, Laila! Your loving Dad, Father-in-law & Grandpa

Love to my dear son Chad, sweet kind Jennifer, and lovable Ferguson & Zeke! Your loving Dad, Father-in-law & Grandpa

Love to my dear sisters-in-law, Kay, Katherine, Jane, and Paula, and their husbands and children! Your loving Brother-in-law & Uncle

Love to my good sailing friends! Your sailing buddy, Ralph

See you all again in Heaven with Jesus I pray!

(My choice)

**I can only imagine**

I can only imagine  
What it will be like  
When I walk by your side . . .

I can only imagine  
What my eyes will see  
When your face is before me.

I can only imagine  
I can only imagine

Surrounded by your Glory  
What will my heart feel  
Will I dance for you Jesus?  
Or in awe of you be still?

Will I stand in your presence,  
to my knees will I fall?  
Will I sing Hallelujah?

Will I be able to speak at all?

I can only imagine

I can only imagine

I can only imagine

When that day comes

When I find myself standing in the Son!

I can only imagine

When all I will do,

Is forever, forever worship you!

I can only imagine

I can only imagine

Surrounded by your Glory

What will my heart feel?

Will I dance for you Jesus?

Or in awe of you be still?

Will I stand in your presence,

Or to my knees will I fall?

Will I sing Hallelujah?

Will I be able to speak at all?

I can only imagine.

Yeah!!!

I can only imagine.

Yeah!!! Yeah!!! Yeah!!!

Surrounded by your Glory

What will my heart feel?

Will I dance for you Jesus?

Or in awe of you be still?

Will I stand in your presence,

Or to my knees will I fall?

Will I sing Hallelujah?

Will I be able to speak at all?

I can only imagine.

Yeah!!!

I can only imagine.

Yeah!!! Yeah!!!

I can only imagine.

Yeah!!!

I can only imagine.

I can only imagine.

I can only imagine.

I can only imagine.  
When all I will do  
Is forever, forever worship you!

I can only imagine.

**Ralph doesn't have to imagine anymore-he  
knows!**

\*\*\*\*

I want to thank everyone for coming to celebrate Ralph's life. He was a wonderful, kind, good husband to me and father to our children and grandpa to our granddaughter and granddogs and took me on such great adventures of a lifetime. I cannot thank him enough and will miss him so terribly but I am also thankful to Jesus for having mercy on him and me so that we could be together when Jesus took him home and Ralph did not have to live through a long time of suffering. One minute he was with me-and the next, at the blink of an eye, he was gone to Heaven. Inscribed on

our wedding rings & my heart – “to RAK all my love forever MLK”.

\*\*\*\*

Ralph and I invite everyone to have a light lunch at Chad and Jennifer’s home when we dock.

We also invite you tonight, Friday, to meet us at **4:45 p.m.** at our favorite restaurant for dinner- Ralph’s and my treat and drinks on us!:

**Middle Grounds Grill  
10925 Gulf Blvd.,  
Treasure Island, FL 33706**

**(We have a room in the back reserved. Ask for the Ralph Knoerr party. See you all there to celebrate Ralph’s life! And if anyone would like to share some of their special memories of my dear Ralph with us at the dinner, I would love that. Mary)**

## **SCHEDULE OF RALPH'S MEMORIAL SERVICE & CELEBRATION**

### **MEMORIAL SERVICE**

**Friday, July 16**, (weather permitting) meet at Chad's House:

**TIME: 10 A.M.**

**PLACE: 11655 5<sup>th</sup>. Street East  
Treasure Island, FL 33706**

Come around to the back to board "War Chant" and take a tour of Chad's boat.

**IF WEATHER NOT GOOD ON JULY 16,  
WILL GO OUT SATURDAY, JULY 17  
SAME PLACE, SAME TIME**



## **CELEBRATION OF RALPH'S LIFE**

No matter what the weather is like - everyone is invited on **Friday, July 16**, at **4:45 p.m.** to Ralph and Mary's favorite restaurant:

**Middle Grounds Grill**  
**10925 Gulf Blvd.**  
**Treasure Island, FL 33706**

**(We have a room in the back reserved. Just ask for the Ralph Knoerr party. See you all there. Mary)**