

Reinald

9.21.19

I am Alyson Breuer and I and my family are Betty and Reinald's former neighbors. How much we have all learned from Reinald: his dignity, his graciousness, his endless curiosity about the world, its occupants, and its functions. We are all in his debt.

On every occasion, his presence added elegance and style to the proceedings, particularly as a founding member of the Belle Avenue Bunch: his bagpipe serenades; his golf games with Tom, Dorian and Simon; his exploration of mini scenes to film and add to his editing; his incredible Halloween stunts abetted by the ever mischievous Betty; his lovely sterling jewelry and some spectacularly crafted Christmas ornaments, greatly treasured, and his inherited strong, sweet voice singing carols, a lovely shared joy.

With gallantry and tact, when, at a child's birthday party and having innocently seated himself on a sofa flanked at each end by two curiously draped young women whom he knew to be nursing mothers, he finally decoded the signals and extricated himself rapidly from altogether too earthy a situation! Perfectly dignified and composed, he had an old-fashioned courtliness that all of us will miss.

He was the only octogenarian I would have – could have – asked to help me prepare old cans of touch-up paint for the garbage. What a good sport he was! The new owners of our house on Belle had declined to accept them and it was a messy job rife with challenges. However, on the parkway outside, the two of us, equipped with tools, hats, glasses, ponchos and rubber gloves, battled to open old cans, stirred in copious quantities of cat litter to absorb the paint and pounded the lids back on. I just wish I had had a smartphone to take a double selfie!

It is a privilege to have known and loved this wonderful man and four generations of the Breuer family feel the same. My late parents; Tom and I; our sons Dorian and Simon; their wives Morgen and Christine, and five grandchildren were in thrall to his humor, values, and affection. Thank you, Reinald, for showing us all the way.