



Roland Leist

April 11, 1929 - May 24, 2026

Roland Leist age 97 of Plymouth, Michigan passed away peacefully May 24, 2026.

Born in Basel, Switzerland 1929, Roland immigrated to the United States through Canada in 1953 in search of opportunity and a better future. Through determination, skill, and hard work he built a remarkable life and legacy for his family.

Roland proudly served in both the Swiss army and later in the United States army, reflecting his deep sense of duty, discipline and commitment to the countries he called home.

A trained tool and die maker by trade, Roland was known for his craftsmanship, ingenuity, and strong work ethic. In 1960 he founded his own manufacturing business, which grew into a successful company that continues to operate today - a lasting testament to his vision, dedication, and entrepreneurial spirit.

Roland shared more than 60 wonderful years of marriage with his beloved late wife, Mary. Together they built a loving family and a life filled with devotion, partnership, and enduring love. Roland and Mary also shared a passion for travel and adventure, creating cherished memories while exploring

destinations throughout the world together.

Above all, Roland was devoted to his family and took great pride in the generations that followed him. He will be remembered for his wisdom, resilience, quite strength, and steady perseverance.

He is survived by his sons, Robert (Laura), Rene, and David; grandchildren Nickelle, Danielle (Bryan), and Andrew (Samantha); and his great grandchildren Hayes, Wesley, Mac, and Stevie.

Roland will be laid to rest Tuesday, July 14th 10:30 AM at Great Lakes National Cemetery, reflecting his deep love for the United States and his gratitude for the opportunities this country has provided to him and his family.

Roland's life reflected perseverance, service, integrity, and the enduring value of hard work, family and love. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered always.

To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road
Holly, MI 48442

Upcoming Events

Committal Service

JUL 14. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Great Lakes National Cemetery
4200 Belford Road
Holly, MI 48442

Tribute Wall

JM

“ I grew up next to Roland and his wife Mary. Roland's having come from Switzerland, his foreign accent, and therefore international influence were critical to my learning how to accept, understand and communicate with different people from a very young age. When Roland and Mary would return from travel, they would tell fascinating stories that drove my young curiosity into our public library's encyclopedias. Roland's accent was as thick as Arnold Schwarzenegger's, and his sons' physiques also being Alps built - I couldn't resist asking him if he'd been back to Austria. He'd always respond with a laugh knowingly, "I'm from Basel, Switzerland, how many times ?" After so many years, I was finally able to say in return I'd been to his hometown. Roland and Mary were very special people and I'm grateful to have known and learned from them. They were one of a kind and I have no doubt their spirit filled with intrigue, happiness and care will live on.

Jason Meininger - 6 hours ago

BE

“ I was deeply honored to be a companion and I love taking him to the doctors and then I gotta see to Roland for a small portion of his remarkable 97 years. A man a few words, he carried a quiet strength and a wisdom that spoke louder than any grand gestures. His Swiss roots gave him a steady dignity, and I will always cherish our quiet conversations and his gentle humor. He will be missed dearly.

Barb Eckhout - June 02 at 07:51 PM