



## Mr. Roland Curtis Young

November 3, 1931 - August 5, 2019

Roland Curtis Young, age 87, of Columbia, SC, a Navy Veteran (a corpsman) died on Monday, August 5, 2019.

There isn't enough column space to adequately convey the life and loves of this gregarious gentleman; still, this writer will attempt to illuminate a few of the highlights. Though he lived many years in West Virginia near Gulley Bridge, (his mother's (RUBY) home) he would tell you that "he's Italian." His father, Jack, was indeed from Sicily, but later moved to New York, no surprise, and there he bestowed onto both of his sons a true passion for Italy, especially for its fine wines. Indeed, Roland enjoyed his vino, unsurpassed cuisine (chicken catcatore was his specialty), a good cigar with a scotch, and traveling around the world. His trip to Cuba was his favorite. Likewise, Roland was a savvy and successful businessman in the complex world of finance and insurance and worked as a State Farm agent in Five Points for 40 years until his retirement in 2000.

Even in "retirement", Roland and Ilsa stayed busy, acting together in local community theatre productions, graciously hosting the best dinner parties ever, singing, performing, active in the Columbia Opera Guild, and supported a plethora of events in their stately Romanesque home in West Columbia--that he designed. Roland played the tuba quite well, and the one song he knew on the piano "Johnny Be Good" not as well. Roland was a charming and romantic man who sang unapologetically to his wife, and laughed so heartily that he would wipe his eyes. You always knew when Roland was in a room.

Roland, a survivor of prostate cancer, was an extremely active advocate for men's health, and organized screening opportunities for scores of men. Through his early detection programs, he helped men connect with their physician while the disease could still be treated. Without doubt his efforts through his organization, Us, Too saved the lives of many men.

Roland enjoyed human history. That passion would lead him to serve as Chairman for the ART Board of Trustees, SC Institute of Archeology and Anthropology from 1992 until

1996. His non-profit, The South Carolina Underwater Archaeological Research Council, was instrumental in raising the Browns Ferry Vessel. It was and remains the oldest wooden vessel ever recovered in North America.

Again, it's impossible to summarize the life of a man who lived one so fully, but without doubt he is in Heaven having a glass of cabernet sauvignon with his brother, John, perhaps patting the head of his dog Rachael, and reminiscing about the good times he had with family and friends. Roland, we will always carry you in our heart—and recite your words of wisdom that “we achieve what we perceive.”

He is survived by his wife, Ilsa Kahn Young; daughter, Mary Ann Reeley (Stan); sons, Mark Young (Lena) and Roe Young (Lynette); step-daughter, Renee Cohen; grandchildren, Michelle Brillembourg, Whitneigh Reeley Cantrell, Jacob Reeley, Cayman Young; great-grandson, Oz Bible; previous wife, Mary Young.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jack Arlotta; mother, Ruby Ann Young; stepfather, “Kelly” Kellogg; and a brother, John.

The funeral service Mr. Young will be held 10 o'clock, Wednesday, August 7th, at Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel, 7600 Trenholm Road Ext, Columbia, with Rabbi Jonathan Case officiating. The family will briefly greet friends following the service before departing for burial at 11:30 o'clock, at Hebrew Benevolent Society Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to The Palmetto Opera, PO Box 50462, Columbia, SC, 29250 or to Beth Shalom Synagogue, 5827 N. Trenholm Road, Columbia, SC 29206.

# Events

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**AUG** **Funeral Service** 10:00AM

**7**

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Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel  
7600 Trenholm Road Extension, Columbia, SC, US, 29223

**AUG** **Graveside Service** 11:30AM

**7**

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Hebrew Benevolent Society Cemetery  
720 Blanding Street, Columbia, SC, US, 29201

# Comments

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“ To Ilsa and family my deepest sympathy on the death of Roland. May you find comfort in precious memories during this difficult time.  
With heartfelt sympathy,  
Heidi Turner

**Heidemarie Turner** - August 08, 2019 at 12:29 PM



“ Ilsa. and family i am sorry I was unable to attend Roland's funeral  
  
(health) I will miss him very much and regret that I let time  
  
separate us over the years. He was a managers dream of the  
  
kind of person and agent should be.He was a friend to so many  
  
people  
  
I can't come close to expressing my love for him and what he  
  
ment to me in so many ways. Louie Winter

**albert Louie Winter** - August 08, 2019 at 02:26 PM

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“ Ilsa, I am so sorry I missed Roland's funeral. Please know that I am thinking of you with care and compassion at this time of loss. With sympathy, Carolyn Adams

**Carolyn Adams** - August 07, 2019 at 04:56 PM

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“ Kathy Bright lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roland Curtis Young



**Kathy Bright** - August 07, 2019 at 11:25 AM

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“ My heart was saddened when I learned of the death of Roland this morning. He and the family greatly enhanced my life with the pleasant encounters that I had with him and his family when they visited with his son and family next door to my home in Batesburg-Leesville as well as visits to his beautiful home in West Columbia.. My prayers and concern are with all of you as you go through this difficult time.

**Gene Berry** - August 07, 2019 at 09:24 AM

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“ We feel so fortunate to have known Roland. He is truly the "unforgettable" person you meet once in a lifetime. Will miss his shouting out at Opera Night at Villa Tronco BRAVA!  
Victor and Sue Sakellarios

**Sue Sakellarios** - August 07, 2019 at 08:45 AM

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“ I met Roland in approximately 1963 when I was a new resident In the Columbia area and he had a well established State Farm Insurance Agency in Five Points. At that time I was working with Art Ford in the small loan business. Art later worked with Roland before he also opened a State Farm Agency.  
Roland made an impression on me that lasted several decades with me becoming reacquainted with Him 3-4 years ago.  
A very good man who is now resting in Peace.

**Wayne Scott James** - August 06, 2019 at 02:05 PM