



Mr. Wayne Roepke of Algonquin

January 18, 1941 - December 15, 2015

Wayne A. Roepke, 74, of Algonquin, Illinois.

Beloved husband of Christina Roepke, nee Kyung; loving father of Susan (Mike) Buehler; cherished grandfather of Michael; dear son of the late Arthur and Florence Roepke; fond brother of Dean and the late Dale Roepke.

Resting at Morizzo Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 2550 West Hassell Road, (Northeast corner of Barrington Road), Hoffman Estates, IL. 60169 where visitation will be Thursday, December 17, 2015, from 3:00 P.M. to time of service 8:00 P.M. and Friday, December 18, 2015 from 9:00 A.M. to the time of service 10:00 A.M. Interment Elm Lawn Cemetery, Elmhurst, Illinois.

In lieu of flowers memorials to Chicago Federation of Musicians, Scholarship Fund, 656 W. Randolph Street, Suite 2W, Chicago, IL. 60661.

This Life Tributes page has been created to make it easy for Family and Friends to share memories, photos and videos.

For further information please contact the Morizzo Funeral Directors at 847.752.6444.

Visitation, Funeral Service, Committal and Burial Service entrusted to Morizzo Funeral Home / Funeral Chapel and Cremation Services, 2550 West Hassell Road, (Northeast corner at Barrington Road), 6 minutes South of Palatine Road and Barrington Road, 6 minutes North of Schaumburg Road and Barrington Road, in Hoffman Estates / South Barrington, Illinois 60169.

Cemetery Details

Elm Lawn Cemetery in Elmhurst

401 East Lake Street
Elmhurst, IL 60126
(630) 833-9696

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 17. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Morizzo Family Funeral Home, Cremation Services, and Cemetery Memorials
2550 Hassell Road
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
(847) 752-6444
ross@morizzofuneralhome.com
<https://www.morizzofuneralhome.com>

Life Celebration Funeral / Memorial Service

DEC 17. 8:00 PM (CT)

Morizzo Family Funeral Home, Cremation Services, and Cemetery Memorials
2550 Hassell Road
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(847) 752-6444
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Visitation

DEC 18. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

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Graveside or Chapel Service

DEC 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Wayne Roepke of Algonquin*

November 04, 2022 at 06:54 PM



“ I'm a piano player from Kenosha who found himself working with Wayne on 5-6 different occasions on jobs for other leaders. Feeling increasingly isolated by the shortage of good bass players with a knowledge of tunes and chord progressions, I got the inspiration to check on the availability of Wayne. Bass players and pianists have a unique, special relationship, both understanding their dependence upon each other. With a bassist like Wayne--who combined his talent with a non-selfish temperament-- we could dispense with the ego barriers that "cripple" many musicians--with no more than one musician, Wayne, I knew I was good to go. A drummer? a horn player?--nice to have if the job pays enough, but not essential. A firm walking bass line is all the support a pianist needs to be able to improvise on the "standards" (Berlin, Gershwin, Ellington, Cole Porter, etc.) and make it a non-stop swinging good time.

A pastor-friend of mine who recently passed, once related to me that if he were given a 2nd chance, he would be a bass player, not a Lutheran minister. No need for showy, pyrotechnical solos-- simply providing strong and unfaltering support would satisfy his need to make music--not merely as a talented musician but as a vital component of the music, since without bass lines there are neither chord progressions nor the pulse that beats from the music's very heart (just like the human heartbeat--not loud or obvious but no less important to the "life" of the music).

The last job I played with Wayne was as a duo, at a restaurant in a small N. Illinois community. On the breaks, we talked about politics, music, and recordings. Wayne seemed elated when I mentioned records that he was familiar with, and he seemed almost disbelieving that I was familiar with so many of the bass players he had listened to on the original Blue Note label--Paul Chambers, Ray Brown, Mingus, Doug Watkins, Oscar Pettiford, Sam Jones, Wilbur Ware. To musicians around the world, these guys are major "heroes." And in the smaller jazz world of the American Midwest Wayne was a hero to guys like me and no doubt the hundreds more who had worked and played with him (all the more true, now that

digital "keyboards" and streaming iPhones are replacing "real" pianos and live, swinging jazz). Jazz is not music for amateur songwriter-singers who "strum" on distorted guitars and carry lots of gear. It's for guys who have worked hard and sacrificed a lot--all for the sake of meeting the high standards set by the major movers--Louis, Duke, Hawk, Prez, Bird, Diz, Brownie--these are the gods, each known by a mere 3-4 letter nickname. Only the best and boldest can play like them. Wayne was both.

Samuel Chell - November 04, 2018 at 09:22 PM

NB

“ *Wayne, a consummate musician and gentleman. You are missed.*

NC Boehm - January 19, 2016 at 01:09 PM

MS

“ *Offering our deepest condolences during this difficult time.*



Morizzo Funeral Home Staff - December 18, 2015 at 04:31 PM

TD

“ *My name is Tom Duracka I went to mark Twain school and Kelly high with Wayne. I was in the band and considered him a good friend. We lost contact after high school, but I always remember the good times we had. I'm saddened by his death. May he rest in peace.*

*Tom
archerflyboy@comcast.net*

Tom Duracka - December 18, 2015 at 07:49 AM

TP

“ I am saddened by Wayne's passing. He was a good friend and recommended me often for gigs. He was very kind. God bless you all, Tony Pons

Tony Pons - December 17, 2015 at 05:32 PM

SF

“ Shelly & Scott Friedman purchased the Fruits and Blooms Basket for the family of Mr. Wayne Roepke of Algonquin.



Shelly & Scott Friedman - December 17, 2015 at 02:45 PM

NS

“ We are going to miss our old Bass Buddy. I go back to over 50 years with Wayne trading jobs as musicians and colleagues. Wayne had a wonderful family please accept our sympathy and condolence. Nick & Jeanne Schneider.

Nick & Jeanne Schneider - December 17, 2015 at 12:07 PM

RC

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Rich Corpolongo - December 16, 2015 at 11:55 PM

RC

Judy Vessely violin, Jim Merola accordion, Rusty Jones drums, Rich Corpolongo clarinet, and Wayne on electric bass.

Richard Corpolongo - December 17, 2015 at 10:05 AM

DR

Wayne, my older brother.

Wayne, the oldest of 3 sons - me the youngest.

Wayne, the very lucky husband of such a lovely and caring woman in your life, Chris

Wayne, the father of beautiful and accomplished Susan who has the very best traits of her Mom & Dad.

Wayne, a man of such great varied talents and interests.

Wayne, a guy with so many friends and associates in the music field.

Wayne, I am very proud of you for all you did in your life and the wonderful memories you leave us all.

I was comforted and honored to be there at your home with your family at the end when you had peacefully passed on.

Much Love and Hope from your little bro', Dean

Dean Roepke - December 17, 2015 at 11:54 AM

TV

Will miss my old friend Wayne. Lot of fun with the Bob Perna band in the sixties and many jobbing dates over the years. We had our inside joke, He was Ted and I was Baretta. We will be together again someday Dear "Ted." Save a spot for me on the bandstand. Tony {Barertta} Vitale

Tony Vitale - December 17, 2015 at 10:55 PM



We played together almost every Wednesday at Del Rio's in Highwood. Recorded a live CD there last year.

I learned so much from him. Not only a great player, but a wonderful person. The staff at the restaurant just loved him. Not many exude that kind of warmth and affection.

He's in a much better place now. After such a difficult 10 month fight, he deserves some solace.

I'll never forget him and am so thankful for having the opportunity to play with and know him. I'm proud to be on his last recording, too.

Carl Noble

Carl Noble - December 20, 2015 at 10:26 AM



As I mentioned before, we recorded a CD last year. I have a few copies left. If anyone would like one, just email me at cmn14@comcast.net with an address and I'll send you one.

C

Carl Noble - December 20, 2015 at 01:55 PM

PM

I met Wayne through my wife as they both went to Kelly High School and she had him in art classes. We spent many evenings listening to him around Chicago with many trio's in lounges. I still have a painting he gave us which he did hanging in my house. He was a very good artist in addition to the music. Wayne and a trio he arranged played at our wedding on April 25, 1964. Sadly my wife is gone but I will always remember this beautiful man. It was a gift to know him.

Paul Marshall 12/28/2015

Paul Marshall - December 28, 2015 at 07:03 PM



“ *Delicious Delights Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Wayne Roepke of Algonquin.*



December 16, 2015 at 07:47 PM



“ *Love from, Kathy and Kurt purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Mr. Wayne Roepke of Algonquin.*



Love from, Kathy and Kurt - December 16, 2015 at 06:37 PM



“ *Wayne - you are truly a "one of a kind" guy. You were totally dedicated to music - real music- and worked as a professional musician your entire life. You lamented that no valid songs had been written in the past 20 years or so. It is amazing to reflect on your Chicago music career and how many great colleagues you worked with throughout the years.*

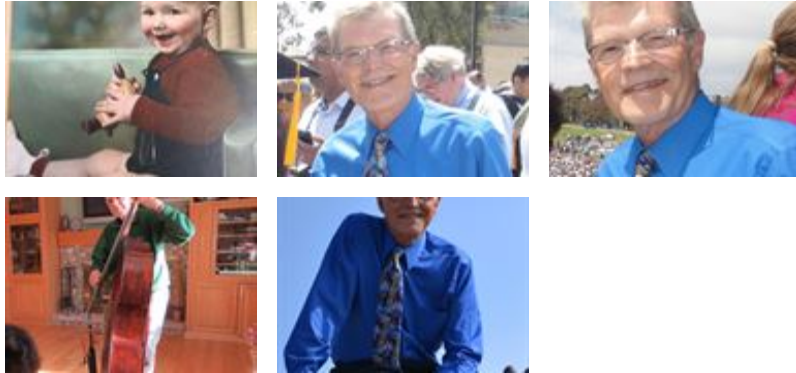
The best part of you besides music was your beautiful and talented family- wife, Christina, and daughter, Susan. They made you a better man and I know you loved them very much.

Rest in peace my weary friend - Love from sister-in-law, Kathy Roepke

Kathy Roepke - December 16, 2015 at 05:24 PM



“ 69 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Morizzo Funeral Home & Cremation Services - December 16, 2015 at 03:35 PM

MS

“ *Morizzo Funeral Home Staff lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wayne Roepke of Algonquin*



Morizzo Funeral Home Staff - December 16, 2015 at 12:38 PM