



Roland H. Lange

April 29, 2013

Roland H Lange of West Hartford, passed away on April 29, 2013, at the age of 102 (or, as he would say, 102 $\frac{3}{4}$). Mr. Lange had successful careers in both the insurance industry and as a 45-year "volunteer" with the American Red Cross, serving at both the local and national levels.

He was born July 24, 1910, and raised in Chicago by German immigrant parents Robert and Elizabeth Lange and attended Northwestern University's School of Business, from which he graduated Summa Cum Laude. He joined The Hartford Fire Insurance Company in 1930 as a field agent and in 1950, after years of barnstorming the midwest, was called to the home office in Hartford as a Vice President. He retired in 1970 as President and Vice Chairman of the Board of the Hartford Group. Along the way, he served on the boards of numerous insurance foundations, was instrumental in consolidating the diverse companies of The Hartford into a single group, and helped add life insurance to the company's business.

Upon his retirement from The Hartford, Mr. Lange entered a second career, that of public service. He served as a Governor Appointee to the State Ethics Commission, and was Chairman at one time or another of several organizations including: the State Gaming Board, the Civic Center Authority, Connecticut Public Television, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Connecticut Opera Society. He also served as a Presidential Appointee to the National Export Committee.

He was especially interested in higher education and chaired the Board of Trustees of the College of Insurance in New York, was Co-Chair of the Tufts University Council, Development Chair of the Hartt School (University of Hartford) and Chairman and Founder of the Connecticut Construction Institute.

One would think that this would occupy all of his spare time. But Mr. Lange is perhaps best remembered for his 45-year association with the American Red Cross. Locally, he headed the campaign for a statewide facility in Farmington and the Blood Services building which bears his name. Nationally, he served as Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors and was instrumental in the development and governance of its Blood Services. In 1985 he was appointed Interim National Chairman and subsequently National Fund-Raising Chairman. Mr. Lange was honored by the Red Cross with the

prestigious Harriman and Drew Awards and later was elected National Vice Chairman Emeritus, the only such appointment ever made. He received an Honorary Doctorate of Humanitarian Services from Briarwood College and the Service to Society Award from Northwestern University.

For 63 years, Mr. Lange has also been an active member of the Asylum Hill Congregational Church, where he enjoyed the "most beautiful choral music in New England." (It should be noted that he once chaired the Music Committee.)

But beyond all these accomplishments, his greatest love was for Florence, his wife of 70 years, whom he met at a bus stop outside of work on Michigan Avenue in Chicago.

Together they enjoyed a full life (along with their beloved Scottish Terriers, Stormy, McDuff, Tammy, and Cinnamon) and a family that he dearly loved. Florence passed away in 2007; he is survived by their two children, Elizabeth Ann Leon and her husband Hayden Leon Jr. of Annapolis, MD, and Robert James Lange and his wife of Simsbury, CT; four grandchildren, (he was their beloved 'Ronno') Hayden "Chip" Leon III, Christine Leon, Jessica Lange, Allyson (Lange) Guarino; and three great-grandchildren, Hannah Jane Leon, Henry Roland Leon, and Ryan Vincent Guarino (one week old); and Sharon Kimble, his longtime caregiver and 'adversary'. He was predeceased by his brothers Arthur and Harold.

The family will hold a private memorial service, to be announced. Donations in his memory may be made to the Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Red Cross, 209 Farmington Ave., Farmington, CT 06032. For online condolences, please visit www.taylorandmodeen.com.

Comments



“ I had the great good fortune of working with Mr. Lange at the Greater Hartford Chapter for many years. He was so involved in the workings of the chapter and showed such concern for the success both of the chapter and its employees. My fondest memories were discussing the individuals who had requested funding from the Lange Scholarship Fund in order to continue thier education. Mr. Lange was always so positive about the importance of keeping and growing our good people. He was a man with a warm, enormous heart as well as being a strong thought leader. His impact on both organizations and individuals like me will be treasured for many years to come.

Dot Calahan - Raleigh, NC - May 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM



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Valerie Wright - Bloomfield, CT - May 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ A remarkable, and humble man,I feel privileged to have known him,we shared a love for great music,and he said I had a beautiful voice,as I'd sometimes sing along with the music he was listening to,as I was working in his beautiful home.God took him to his garden 'cause he only wants the best.RIP Mr.Lange you did your duty and more.

Valerie Wright - Bloomfield, CT - May 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ My time working with Roland are filled with good memories. He was a delight to work with and the organization will miss his good works and wise advice

Joseph Bumbleburg - Lafayette, IN - Red Cross friend and associate - May 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I am deeply saddened to learn of Roland's passing. I was extremely fortunate to have met Roland when I started with the Red Cross in Hartford nearly 40 years ago and especially lucky to have him take me under his wing. Throughout the years, he was always available to explore ideas and concepts and to guide me in my journey into Red Cross management. I can only hope to have been able to share a small percentage of what he taught me as a manager, a person, and a humanitarian with those with whom I've worked over the years. Some of my fondest memories over my career have been discussions with Roland, and I'm fortunate to have counted him as a friend. I'll miss you, Roland. You have always stood for honesty and courage and will be thought of as what is best about being a Red Cross volunteer.

Lee Stebbins - Vienna, VA - mentee; friend - May 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr Roland Lange was a very blessed ,he was an angel sent from god , he was my angel and I'm so happy I met him.my condolences to the family and may god gives you strength at this time.

Paula Turman - Bloomfield, CT - May 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr. Lange was a great man and role model. He was already a legendary figure in the organization when I joined the American Red Cross in 1977.
Please accept my deepest condolences.

William A. Malfara
Director
Disaster Operations Resources
National Headquarters
American Red Cross

Bill Malfara - Washington DC - May 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ What a great man. I served with him on the BOG of Red Cross when I was the youngest person on the Board.

Mike Frisch, Ph.D. - Waco, TX - May 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Betty, I was so sorry to learn of your Father's passing. He was a wonderful gentleman. His love for your Mother and his family were always very obvious. My deepest sympathy to you and all of your family. Linda Isaacson French

Linda French - Rumford Center, ME - May 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ As the Director of the Blood Bank at New Britain General Hospital from 1970-2007 as well as an active volunteer member of the Ct. Red Cross Program, I was honored to work with and get to know Roland Lange. In many ways, he was a mentor to me and I was always impressed with his dedication to public service and volunteerism. His successes at both the national and local level in the Red Cross have left a wonderful legacy for those who have followed him into volunteer efforts in support of the Red Cross missions. My wife and I had the great pleasure of spending time with Florence and Roland at social functions and we both looked forward to spending time with them. Our condolences go out to his family at this time.

David Krugman, MD

David Krugman, MD - Avon, CT - Professional Red Cross colleague - May 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM