



Larry Alster Pulkrabek

December 18, 2015

Larry Alster Pulkrabek of Manheim Township died in Lancaster on Thursday, December 17, at the age of 76. He was born on September 18, 1939, in Freeport, Illinois to George and Helen Pulkrabek.

Mr. Pulkrabek studied economics at Beloit College, earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1961. He received his juris doctorate from the University of Michigan Law School in 1964.

Mr. Pulkrabek began his legal career as an associate attorney at Stroud, Stebbins & Stroud in Madison, Wisconsin. From 1965 to 1968, he served as the director of legal affairs at Keko Industries, Inc., in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In Cincinnati, Mr. Pulkrabek met a young speech therapist, Mary Kathryn (“Kaye”) Baughman, who was to be his best friend and life’s companion. The couple married in Warren, Ohio on August 17, 1968.

Also in August 1968, Mr. Pulkrabek accepted a staff attorney position with the legal department of Armstrong, Inc., later Armstrong World Industries, Inc. He became the general manager of Armstrong’s legal department in 1973. In 1977, at the youthful age of 37, Mr. Pulkrabek was promoted to the position of Vice President, Secretary, and General Counsel. As the company’s chief legal officer, he helped lead Armstrong’s global expansion to 24 domestic plants

and 25 overseas.

Between 1988 and 1990, Mr. Pulkrabek defended Armstrong against a hostile takeover bid by corporate raiders and greenmailers who threatened to dismantle the company. His work contributed to Pennsylvania's adoption of the toughest anti-takeover legislation in the United States, and Armstrong successfully repelled the barbarians at its gates.

Mr. Pulkrabek retired from Armstrong in 1997, although the company continued to use his services as a consultant for many years. In his retirement, he applied his time, legal training, and business experience to assisting local nonprofit and political organizations.

Mr. Pulkrabek had a particular fondness for country backroads and scenic byways. Though seldom lost, his epic drives in, out, around, and across Lancaster County often made him tardy for supper.

Ever slow to anger and quick to forgive, Mr. Pulkrabek was a devoted spouse, loving father, and adoring "Gada" to his granddaughters.

Surviving him are his wife, Kaye; his son, Ross Pulkrabek; his daughter, Loring Krall; his grandchildren; his sister, GeorgeAnne Awe; and his brother, Richard. His family will miss him in a thousand ways.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to MidPenn Legal Services, 38 N. Christian St., Lancaster, PA 17601, in memory of Mr. Pulkrabek's contributions to the legal profession and to the community.

A private memorial service will be held at the convenience of the family.

Tribute Wall



“ *Larry Alster Pulkrabek*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Kaye and Loring,
The Dodson family offers our deepest condolences. Though I didn't know Larry well, the Pulkrabeks were an important part of our childhood, and I know my father Sam had a great respect for you and Larry. I know my father especially appreciated your support and advice during the years he served on the Manheim Township School Board. I recognize a kindred spirit in a man who relished exploring this beautiful county. He will be missed.*
Ryan and Sacha Dodson

Ryan Dodson - December 28, 2015 at 12:10 AM



“ *Kaye I always appreciated how your husband answered the phone in a welcoming way when I needed to talk with you. My sincere sympathy at this sad time.---Randy Sammet*

Randy Sammet - December 22, 2015 at 10:18 AM



“ *Attorney Kulkrabek was a strong and steady supporter of civil legal aid and of MidPenn Legal Services, in particular. It is a great distinction to be associated with Larry and we thank Kaye for mentioning our organization in his obituary. It is indeed an honor. Kaye, we wish you peace in this most difficult time. Jim Kearney, MidPenn Legal Services*

Jim Kearney - December 21, 2015 at 04:53 PM

LK

“Kaye:
Larry was a major participant in the old Armstrong's later history. His tenure encompassed a period of great change. Most folks do not know how instrumental he was in changing the face of insurance coverage for companies across the country caught up in asbestos litigation. For Armstrong, he was faithful and relentless. And he somehow managed to keep the odd ducks of the legal department showing up on time for work.
I hope you and your family are as well as can be.
Larry Keating

Larry Keating - December 21, 2015 at 12:31 PM

HJ

“Kaye: *I express my condolences to you and the family. Larry was always such a very nice guy. I enjoyed chatting with him the times we got together. Take care. Herb*

Herb Johnston - December 20, 2015 at 01:01 PM

DP

“Kaye, *I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your husband, Larry. The obituary was a wonderful, loving tribute to him. Even though I met him only a handful of times, he was both kind and humorous. Please accept my sincere condolences and, if you could, pass them on to your family as well. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.*

Movie Star Mom

*"The heart has its own memory, like the mind -
And in it are enshrined the precious keepsakes."
~ Longfellow*

Deb Perkins - December 20, 2015 at 10:33 AM