



## Aurele Joseph (Ralph) Violette

July 11, 1941 - June 9, 2022

Aurele Joseph Violette (Ralph) passed away in Lake Mary FL on June 9, 2022. He was born on July 11, 1941, in Augusta, Maine, the son of Aurele and Juliette (Dubois) Violette.

Aurele graduated from Cony High School (1959) in Augusta, ME and Bowdoin College (1963). He earned his PhD in Russian history from Ohio State University in 1971. His studies were interrupted by service in the U.S. Army which included a one-year tour in Vietnam (1968-1969). He was honorably discharged with the rank of captain in 1969. He and wife Judie then spent six months in Helsinki, Finland where he continued his dissertation research in the Russian archives.

In 1970 he began his 36-year career as a history professor at Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne (IPFW) where he was known to inspire several non-historians to love history. In summer 2001 he taught one of the first two online courses offered at IPFW. Upon his retirement he and his wife established the Judie and Ralph Violette History Scholarship.

While in Fort Wayne, Aurele helped establish the Cathedral Museum and the St. Louis Besancon Historical Society. He also authored a popular Fort Wayne history.

Aurele was a well-loved baker and cook, a fine craftsman, and an excellent bridge player and cruciverbalist. A proud descendant of the original Acadians, Aurele was an avid genealogist and leaves behind an extensive family history that will surely be treasured by future generations.

Aurele is survived by his loving family: Judie, his wife of 55 years, his son Andrew (Thuy) of Nashville, TN, and his daughter Stephanie (Brock) Levin of Longwood, FL and by his treasured grandchildren Ethan Violette, Olivia Violette, Zachary Levin, and Zoe Levin. He is also survived by his siblings Gloria (John) Welch, Donald (Chet) Violette and Priscilla Violette as well as numerous other relatives.

The family wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to the caring staff at Oakmonte Village Memory Care facility where Aurele lived the last year of his life suffering the effects of Parkinson's dementia.

There will be no visitation. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at All Souls Catholic Church 3280 W. 1st Street, Sanford, FL at 10:00 on Thursday June 23. Burial will follow at 2:00 at the Canaveral National Cemetery in Mims, FL

For those who wish, contributions in Aurele's memory to the Judie and Ralph Violette History Scholarship at Purdue University Ft Wayne would be welcome. (Purdue University Fort Wayne, Attn Development Office 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd., Fort Wayne IN 46805-1499. Make checks payable to the PFW Foundation).

The family Aurele Joseph Violette invites you to leave a message of condolence on the Tribute Wall created in his loving memory.

# Previous Events

## Burial

JUN **23**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Cape Canaveral National Cemetery

5525 US-1 North

Mims, FL 32754

(321) 383-2638

<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/capecanaveral.asp>

# Tribute Wall

PA

“ *Ralph was a generous, affable man and a good colleague. Our hearts go out to Judi (also a great colleague) and especially Stephanie, with whom I did many school field trips.*

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**Patrick Ashton** - June 24, 2022 at 09:37 AM

GF

“ *I took a Russian history class from Dr. Violette, something I had never studied before, and he made complex topics understandable and engrossing. It's heartening to hear that he inspired others with his teaching.*

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**Graham Fredrick** - June 15, 2022 at 10:05 AM

CT

“ *Dr. Violette taught me so much more than history. I took all of his upper division courses in Russian History and his Senior Seminar. He taught me to really dig deep in my research. Check sources and be concise and clear in my writing. Always be inquisitive. Never stop asking questions. He helped shape me for a rigorous career as an academic librarian. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. I am blessed to have known him and to be able to call him friend. My heart goes out to my dear friend Judie, Andrew, and Stephanie. May he rest in peace.*

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**Cheryl Truesdell** - June 15, 2022 at 08:43 AM

K(

“ Dr. Violette was my American History teacher at IPFW. I enrolled in that class because I had to and finished obsessed with history! He made me love it! Following our teacher-student relationship, we became good friends. Later, I was his daughter, Stephanie's, second grade teacher! How fortunate am I that I was blessed with so many years of Violettes in my life? I will always hold close those wonderful times.

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**Kathleen Kearns (Brita)** - June 14, 2022 at 02:57 PM

JB

*Love you forever brother...*

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**Jess Beltz** - July 28, 2022 at 04:07 PM