

Raywin Melmore Raaflaub passed away on April 20, 2023 after a brief illness. He was born in Magnetawan, on 19 August 1930. His name came from the first three letters of his grandparents' names, Raymond and Winnifred Raaflaub (Rawn). With such an unusual name, it is no wonder that his life was so inspired, exciting and varied; from being a wildcatter in the Alberta oilfields to guarding our Arctic borders at DEW line radar stations. He, along with his father and four brothers, served in Canada's armed forces. During his time in the RCAF, Raywin was stationed in St. Jean Quebec, Aylmer ON, Lac St. Denis Quebec & Goose Bay Labrador. He did his trades training in diesel mechanics and electrics. He had a love of flying, including belonging to a



gliding club stationed at CFB Borden and going for flights in small aircraft on his 90th and 91st birthdays. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion since 1959 and the RCAF Association since 1962. He was a founding member of 449 (Orillia) Wing and its first Vice-President. Later, Raywin enjoyed participating in many activities at 441 Wing. He was a Director of the Ad Astral Housing Project Board for many years and was a keen fundraiser for the Wing. He was always loyal to his friend AC1 Stanley Peacock and helped organize the annual memorial services at his gravesite on 13 October. Seeing him whizzing around on his electric scooter was a sight to behold. The Indy 500 had nothing on him. He was always grateful to his friend and confidant, Karen, who helped him get around otherwise to grocery shop and spirit him from one venue to another. He valued his friendships with his RCAF family and the Legion members. Ray had four children Ted (Gayle), Debbie (Greg), Richard and Lisa (Brad). He had 6 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. His family very much appreciated the Celebration of Life service that 441 Wing conducted in his honour at the Orillia RCL Branch 34 on 7 May 2023. Ray's final wish was for his friends at the Wing to have a drink in his honour at his funeral. His cousin, Dr. Garry Lee Willard proposed the toast to the Wing members present.

