



Roland Lee Reed

June 3, 1936 - August 22, 2025

Roland Reed died quietly on August the 22nd. His family, whom he loved dearly, was with him the days before, sharing their love and memories..... memories of sailing and story telling, raising four children and thirteen grandchildren by reading the Odyssey to them, along with how to cut the grass.

Roland directed over 100 plays, taught in three major universities, wrote plays and books. But he also gave of himself.....reading to children who had no books, volunteering at the Luther Place Women's Shelter in D.C., visiting prisoners in two state penitentiaries, going to Bosnia to teach and to spread justice and peace, taking classes to England to teach Shakespeare, greeting disabled elders as he passed by while pushing his own rollator. In his last months he came to Good Shepherd via his computer, enjoying the music, praying with the congregation, listening to the lessons and sermon, occasionally falling asleep while watching communion being served. Roland donated his body to science, but asked Sylvia, his wife of 66 years, that when his ashes are returned they be scattered into the bay, so that he might visit God's great creation around the earth while in heaven.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend his Memorial Service on Saturday, September 13 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 16420 S. Westland Drive,

Gaithersburg, MD 20877. Visitation begins at 1:30 pm. The service is at 2:30 pm. Following the service all are invited to a celebration of Roland's life, 5:00-7:00pm, Montgomery Station at Riderwood Village, Silver Spring, MD 20904.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given in Roland's memory to Lutheran World Relief, a life-saving organization that Roland and Sylvia have supported for many years.

Tribute Wall

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“ Dr. Reed was one of the most impactful professors I had at Catholic University. I was fortunate enough to travel with him to Stratford-Upon-Avon with a Shakespeare study group and witnessed his pure passion and enthusiasm for theatre. He was incredibly encouraging to all students and challenged each and every one of us to think bigger and to see the complexity in human beings and life. He was kind, generous, and a beacon of light. Sending love to the family and please know how much Dr. Reed meant to do, so many.

Anne Bowles - September 13, 2025 at 11:15 AM

KW

“ Dr. Reed was one of the greatest teachers and kindest souls I have ever encountered. His passion for his students was felt by so many and his ability to make each person he taught feel special and important was amazing. He created a world of wonder and exploration and always encouraged people to find that spark that made them love the theater so much. He had a profound impact on my days at CUA, and I will forever be grateful for the opportunities I had to learn from him. I am sending so much love to his family during this difficult time.

Kathleen Wilber - September 08, 2025 at 04:24 PM



“*Roland joined the Catholic University faculty one year before I did. I actually sometimes sat near him in meetings because his ‘doodles’ were beyond amazing. I actually used a couple of them (with permission of course) in teaching design students how to perceive the world in a more open and unique way. I’ve posted about his passing on my FB page and the outpouring of love for him is beautiful. His impact on the students was life- changing in many cases, and I hope he realized that.*

Gail Beach - September 05, 2025 at 03:50 PM