



The Bolton Scholarship Fund

Investing in the future...

The Ray Zarychta Memorial Scholarship

Established 2020

Ray was the grandfather of two Bolton High School graduates from Columbia. He graduated from Woonsocket High School (RI) in 1959 and Providence College in 1963.

Everything he did in life was purposeful and detailed, and he enjoyed sharing knowledge gained over the years with others. He built a small scale race car track in the basement of his house; cars were painted in detail; grandstands were made from scratch and decals were everywhere. He then moved to HO model trains with an elevated layout in one room in the house, complete with an opening in the center. He took pictures of mill buildings in Woonsocket, RI where he grew up and then recreated them from scratch, capturing every little detail. Train engines were painted true to their real life counterparts. He spent hours with a multitude of tools; 8 different sized pliers and magnifying lenses like dentists used. His craft was something he felt down to his bones and he took great pride in his creations.

After trains came fishing; he was well known to CTFisherman.com. Weekends would be spent on the water in his bass boat where he would record every detail of the fish he caught; day, time, air and water temperature, location in the lake, weather, size of the fish, coloring...anything he could document. He recorded that information in EXCEL spreadsheets and shared them with the CT DEEP. He also made custom fishing rods and lures and repaired many a broken rod.

While working at Aetna, Ray was a great source of knowledge for his department. The running joke was if you needed an answer about something check with Ray, but be prepared for the 20 minute history lesson associated to that answer.

Ray never did anything halfway; if he was passionate about something, he was all in; from his trains, to fishing to watching his grandchildren play sports to the Boston Red Sox and UConn Women's basketball team. He was also devoted to his family.

Ray passed away in October 2020 after battling several medical issues during the year. And since you are wondering, its pronounced Za-wreck-ta (Zarychta).