
Memories of Carlos

Carlos Ruling

Our beloved fellow folk dancer, Carlos Ruling, passed away on Friday, November 13 as a result of injuries suffered in a fall. Carlos was a long-time member and, occasionally, the president of Chang's Folk Dancers of San Francisco. He served as President of the Folk Dance Federation of California and unofficial auxiliary member of the Stockton Folk Dance Committee through his late



Photo by Suzanne Rocca-Butler

wife, Ruth Ruling. His career with the San Francisco Unified School District as both a teacher and administrator spanned 30 years. Carlos retired in 1980, which offered him the time and opportunity to serve as treasurer of the Norwegian Club, among the many other responsibilities he assumed.

Carlos had a great sense of fun and humor. A favorite story shared recently was his recounting of one particularly memorable *Bay to Breakers* run. He and a fellow member of the Norwegian Club found a wheel chair on the premises and decided to participate in the annual run by taking turns being pushed along the course route, one of them wearing the typical Norwegian hat with the horns. The other runners happily parted for them to pass through. Apparently that run was the most unforgettable of the more than 14 runs in which he took part.

As a Navy man, Carlos served in the South Pacific during WWII. To this day a photo of Ruth's handsome, smiling fiancé in uniform stands proudly in their home. One cannot think of Carlos without also remembering his beloved wife, Ruth. They were the consummate team in a partnership bonded by deep love. Carlos was Ruth's constant ally and support. One could see the deep affection they shared even when she would chide him when he teased her, or roll her eyes when he enthusiastically added kicks when dancing *La Bastingue*. Although her passing in 2007 left a huge hole, Carlos cheerfully moved forward in his spirited way, never complaining, never dour.

Carlos was kind, joyful, and always shared his appreciation of life with those around him. Nothing could make one feel more special than his welcome greeting of, "As I live and breathe and hope to shout!"

His daughter, Kathleen Moore, son, Karl Ruling, and grandchildren, Dennis Robinson, Karen Ruling, and Margaret Ruling survive Carlos. Should you wish to honor Ruth and Carlos' memory and dedication to folk dance, the family requests that donations to the Stockton Folk Dance Camp Scholarship Fund would be their preference. You may send them to Bruce Mitchell, Director, Stockton Folk Dance Camp, 2429 Willow Creek Court, Cool, CA 95614.

A celebration of Carlos' life was held Sunday, January 3, 2010 at the Norwegian Club of San Francisco, 1900 Fell St, San Francisco.
