

Obituary - Philip Achilles Rue

Philip Rue, 95, died Friday, May 2 in the loving care of his son's home in La Crescenta, California.

A native of Newark, New Jersey, Philip lived in Fontana since 1953. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He dedicated his professional career to our community as an important educator with the Fontana Unified School District. He is also remembered for his column "Phil's Findings," which appeared for many years in the Fontana Herald News.

Rue is survived by his wife Ruth of 70 years; one son, Ronald Rue (Donna) of La Crescenta; and daughters Leslie Rue of Van Nuys and Donna Rue Jenkins (Richard) of San Miguel, California. He also leaves behind three grandchildren, Adam, Derek and Ryan, and two great-grandchildren, Sydney and Jacob.

Memorial services are being planned for the near future. Dickey Mortuary of Fontana (909-822-2285) is in charge of arrangements.

Residents mourn loss of Herald News columnist Philip A. Rue



Members of the Fontana community, and especially the staff at the Fontana Herald News, lost a dear friend last week.

Philip A. Rue, a successful educator and dedicated volunteer for many years in Fontana, passed away Friday, May 2. He was 95.

Rue was well-known for writing a weekly column, "Phil's Findings," for the Herald News for more than two decades.

"He loved Fontana, and he loved all the people who lived in Fontana," said his son, Ron Rue. "His goal seemed to be to help anyone he could."

Many of his most popular articles in the newspaper were features about senior citizens who attended events at the Fontana Community Senior Center. He also wrote knowledgeably about a wide range of other subjects, including entertainment, economics, history, sports, and education.

He and his wife of 70 years, Ruth, lived in Fontana since 1953. He was an educator with the Fontana Unified School District for close to 30 years.

After his retirement, he stayed busy by teaching part-time at North Tamarind Elementary School. As a fluent Spanish speaker, Rue taught English as a Second Language to parents at the school for more than a decade.

"He did a great job in the classroom," said North Tamarind Principal Dan Fitzgerald. "The parents really liked his teaching. He was really animated and enthusiastic."

Even when funding for the class ran out, Rue continued to teach the class on a volunteer basis for two years, Fitzgerald said.

"Our staff really liked Mr. Rue," Fitzgerald said. "He was always looking out for others."

Rue volunteered at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center and also was a member of the Rotary Club of Fontana.

"One of his goals was to live to be 100," his son said. "His most prized possession was his driver's license, which was set to expire in 2019, which would have been his 100th birthday."

Memorial services are being planned for the near future. See the Obituary section and a special tribute in the Opinion section.