

Ralph L. Brown Obituary

Ralph L. Brown, a senior project engineer in the Physics Dept. who retired on September 30, 2011, died on September 29, 2015. He was 67 years old.

In January 2002, at the Employee Recognition Award Ceremony, Ralph Brown was rewarded with one of BNL's highest honors – the \$5,000 Engineering Award, which is given to recognize distinguished contributions to engineering or computing over one or more years.

The Bulletin of March 1, 2002, reported that Ralph Brown, one of three honorees that year, was recognized “for the leadership and engineering skills that he exhibited during the completion and first running of the STAR Detector at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC). With an extremely high degree of coordination and organization over the last two years, Brown led the effort to complete the integration, installation, and testing of the STAR detector — on time and within budget. This included coordinating extensive modifications and the addition of new components during a scheduled RHIC shutdown. Evidence of his contributions is the fact that STAR's first scientific results were presented just one month after the end of RHIC's 2000 run, which showed that the detector became fully operational in an extraordinarily short time given its size and complexity. Brown's ability to work with scientific, engineering, and technical personnel from many institutions worldwide and his leadership of the engineering staff's effort were also cited among his outstanding achievements.”

Ten years later, Ralph Brown was pictured in The Bulletin of March 23, 2012, as a member of the BNL team on the Daya Bay Neutrino Project, which had released its first results - the discovery of a new kind of neutrino transformation.

Led by China and the U.S, the Daya Bay Reactor Neutrino Experiment Collaboration searches, as The Bulletin noted, "for the last, most elusive piece of a longstanding puzzle: how is it that neutrinos can appear to vanish as they travel? The surprising answer [announced in the first results] opens a gateway to a new understanding of fundamental physics and may eventually solve the riddle of why there is far more ordinary matter than antimatter in the universe today."



Photo above: Members of the BNL Daya Bay Neutrino Project. Ralph Brown is second from right in the front row.

In addition to being a good physicist, Ralph Brown was a fine man, as evidenced in these comments on his Condolences page on the website of Moloney's Lake Funeral Home & Cremation Center, <https://www.moloneyfh.com/obituary/ralph-l-brown/>

Ron Longacre posted on 10/5/15

Best magnet buddy ever

Pena Novakova posted on 10/3/15

I know I will echo some of Steve's and Rahul's feelings but I have to say it again. Ralph was my first supervisor at Brookhaven Lab, and as such, he was also my first mentor, counselor, role model, and a close friend – someone you can rely on and seek his opinion on everything.

Ralph was very compassionate and willing to help everyone no matter of cultural differences. He was a very interesting story teller and was able to say serious things with a great sense of humor. He was capable to accomplish everything with a smile. It was always fun to talk to Ralph no matter how serious issues were discussed. I will not only miss a great colleague and expert but also a good friend that made me feel like I belong here.

Steve Kettell posted on 10/3/15

Ralph had an enormous impact on the design and construction of the Daya Bay experiment, which has significantly improved mankind's understanding of neutrinos. Ralph has had a huge influence on the professional and personal development of countless scientists and engineers. Personally, his knowledge and insight has made me a better and more productive physicist. His warmth and good humor has made me a better person. I will miss him tremendously.

Bob Tucker posted on 10/2/15

Time and miles may have separated us over the years but our friendship was always there. You were a mentor, a confidant and always a friend. After 40 years, I find solace in knowing my memories of you will never fade.

Darrin D. Pardee posted on 10/2/15

Ralph was my best friend, brother in law, golfing partner, and my son Tyler's Godfather, it is a huge loss to all of us, and a void in our lives and heart that will never be filled. He was one of the smartest, kindest, funny, giving and loving men I have ever had in my life. I miss you already and will love you always, and pray you rest in peace and shoot par in Heaven.

Alessandro J Veralli posted on 10/2/15

If it weren't for meeting and then marrying my wife Diane, I would never have had the pleasure and honor to have met Ralph and his lovely wife Bernadette. We

instantly became friends and for 40 plus years I've had what is definitely the best friend that anyone can hope for. With his passing, I've lost a part of me and will always remember all of the good times we've had over the years. I miss you my friend and you will always be in my heart and soul. Rest in Peace.

Rahul Sharma posted on 10/2/15

Ralph was a mentor, role model and best friend to me. My life will not be the same without him. He was a great guy and not a lot of people like him exist in this world. RIP buddy. You will be sorely missed!

Richard Brown posted on 10/2/15

The world, and my life for sure, has sustained a great loss. My two comforts are that we spent several joyous days together two days before he passed, and after hugging Ryan last night, I felt I really had not lost my brother completely.