August Rua

August "Augie" Rua, 81, of Pittsburg, longtime Pittsburg businessman, died at 8:10 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 4, 2005, at the Mt. Carmel Regional Medical Center in Pittsburg.

He was born Aug. 11, 1924, at Burgess, Mo., to Pete and Louise (Castagna) Rua. He was a graduate of Cockerill High School.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, serving in Europe for two and-a-half years.

After the War, he attended Pittsburg State University. While attending college, he became an insurance agent, and on March of 1947, he founded Rua Insurance. He received his BS degree in business administration in 1949, and his Masters Degree in 1955.

He joined Farmers Insurance Group in 1947, and was appointed District Manager, in 1949. He supervised offices in Fort Scott, Parsons, Independence, and Galena. In addition to being agent for Farmer Insurance Group, he provided income tax services since 1949. He opened Broadway Realty in 1952. He was executive Vice President of Centennial Life Insurance Company, of Pittsburg, and with the ERC Corporation of Kansas City. Throughout his insurance career, he received numerous sales and production awards.

He married Helen Louise Clutter, on Jan. 22, 1944, at Little Rock, Ark. She survives of the home.

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, where he served on the Building Committee. He was a member of the National, State, and Local Life Underwriters, the National, State, and Local Insurance Agents Associations, the National, State, and Local Realtors Associations. He also served as Vice President of the Holiday Inn, and was Treasurer of the Extra Inn, Chairman of the Board of Pittsburg Ready Mix Concrete, and President of Briar Glen Development Company of the Synar Brothers.

He was a member of the Pittsburg Masonic Lodge No. 187 A.F. & A. M., Mont Joie Commandry No. 29 Knights Templar, both for fifty years. The Fort Scott Scottish Rites Bodies, and was a 32 Degree Master Mason, for thirty years. He was a member of the Mirza Shrine, the Color Guard, and the Legion of Honor, of which he had served as president. He was also a member of the Pittsburg Elks Lodge No. 412, for 31 years, the VFW, the Benjamin A. Fuller Post No. 26 of the American Legion, where he had served as past Commander, and secretary / treasurer for many years, a charter member of Crestwood Country Club, and a former member of the Girl Scout Advisory Board.

He was a avid Pittsburg State University supporter. This was evident in his financial support and the giving of his time and talents. He was a founding member of the Pittsburg State University Foundation, Inc., and was Past President of the Foundation, a member of the Board of Trustees, and the Pittsburg State University Alumni Association. He received the Meritorious Achievement Award, at Pittsburg State University, for Outstanding Alumni, and has sponsored several scholarships. The press box at Carnie Smith Stadium bears his name as result of his continued financial support of Pittsburg State University.
Additional survivors include a son, David Rua of Pittsburg; two daughters, Brenda Chappell of Pittsburg, and Alana Schubert of St. Louis, Mo.; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Frank Rua, and a sister, Marguerite Bair.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m., Wednesday, at the First United Methodist Church, with Rev. Thomas Sims, officiating. Burial will follow in the Garden of Memories Cemetery, where flag folding services will be provided by the Benjamin A. Fuller American Legion Post No. 26. Masonic services will be at 6:30 p.m., today, at the Brenner Mortuary Chapel, where the family will receive friends following the Masonic services until 8 p.m. Friends may call after 9 a.m., today to sign the register book.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Brenner Mortuary, 114 E. Fourth Street.

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http://morningsun.net/stories/090605/obi_20050906016.shtml
Pittsburg businessman August Rua dies at 81
By NIKKI PATRICK
Lifestyle Editor

Pittsburg State University has lost a devoted friend and supporter with the death of August "Augie" Rua.

Rua, 81, who operated Rua Insurance Agency at 1504 N. Broadway for many years, died at 8:10 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 4, 2005, at Mt. Carmel Regional Medical Center.

PSU President Tom Bryant said that he and his wife, Koeta, were saddened by the news.

"He's been a longtime friend of the university, and that spans three generations," Bryant noted. "He, his children and at least one grandchild attended PSU."

The most visible sign of his support to the university is the August and Helen Rua Press Box on the west side of Carnie Smith Stadium.

"He and Helen enjoyed many Saturdays watching the Gorillas play football from that skybox," Bryant said. "But he also attended many basketball games. It's going to seem really strange not seeing Augie at our events."

His support to PSU athletics was only part of his service to the university, said Kenneth Bateman, director emeritus, PSU Alumni Relations.

"As well as being a generous donor, he really helped provide volunteer service and leadership," Bateman said. "When I started at the university, he was president of our National Alumni Association, and when they started the Kansas State College of Pittsburg Alumni Foundation, he was one of the first trustees. When that organization merged with the Endowment Association, he was a trustee of that. He attended all the meetings and was very active on these boards."

Bateman noted that Rua was a business graduate of the university, and supplied scholarships for the PSU College of Business.

"He and his wife also went on many alumni trips," Bateman added. "Their last trip was a one-day excursion to Branson, Mo., to see a show - and the next day he went into the hospital. It's interesting that, right up to the end, he was involved with the university."

For his longtime service and support to the university, Rua had received the PSU Meritorious Service Award.

Rua was also involved in veterans organizations, said longtime friend Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Jack Strukel, former area resident who now resides in Topeka.

"He was a great American and served his country faithfully during World War II," Strukel said. "He was a great community person, and a person of good Christian values."

He said he had known Rua since around 1950. "When I came out of active service in the Korean War era, I bought my first car insurance and my first house insurance from him," Strukel said.
Rua was well-regarded in his profession for his expertise and quality service to clients, said Joe Hart, Pittsburg insurance agent.

"I especially knew him through the Southeast Kansas Association of Insurance Advisors," Hart said. "He always attended meetings, and was very generous and eager to be of help. He was just a neat gentleman."

"We always appreciated his support and his counsel," Bryant said. "Augie will be missed by PSU and by the community in general. His death is just a great loss."

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Thomas Sims officiating. Burial will be in Garden of Memories Cemetery. Masonic services will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Brenner Mortuary Chapel, where the family will receive friends following the Masonic services until 8 p.m. Friends may call after noon Tuesday at the Brenner Chapel to sign the register book.

[photograph] Morning Sun File Photo
August and Helen Rua sit in the pressbox that was named for them after a $200,000 donation in 1989. August Rua, a Pittsburg insurance agent, died Sunday morning at the age of 81.

[photograph] Morning Sun File Photo
August “Augie” Rua. Show [sic] in this file photo honoring the 50th anniversary of his business, owned a Pittsburg insurance agency for 53 years.

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http://morningsun.net/stories/090505/loc_20050905002.shtml
Auggie Rua left an indelible mark on Pittsburg State University athletics - both visible and invisible.

Rua, a Pittsburg businessman who died Sunday morning, was a major benefactor of PSU. The press box bears the name of August Rua and his wife, Helen, after the couple made the facility possible with a large donation during renovation at Carnie Smith Stadium in 1989.

"Auggie and Helen were the first major contributors to the athletic department," PSU athletics director and football coach Chuck Broyles said Sunday night. "Their donation, at that time, was the largest single gift ever given to the athletic department."

And that gift was followed by similar donations by others for other privately funded projects at the university.

"He established positive momentum - inertia if you will - in getting our facilities upgraded to the levels of those we compare ourselves to," said Russ Jewett, associate athletics director for facilities and track and cross country coach at PSU. "It's guys like him - and his wife and family - that have put us on the intercollegiate athletics map."

At the time of the construction of the press box, Rua said his involvement with PSU was a way of repaying a debt of gratitude he felt as both a former student of the school and a local businessman who recognized the role the institution plays in the community. Rua received his bachelor's degree in business administration at PSU in 1949 and earned his master's degree at the school in 1959.

"The college has been really our biggest industry in Pittsburg," Rua said in a 2001 interview. "I don't know what this town would do without PSU. It has kept this town stable."

"He went to school with my aunt and dad in Cockerill," said Broyles, who has known Rua for most of his life. "He did my mom and dad's income tax, probably for 40 years."

Rua said he chose supporting PSU athletics because it is one of the most visible programs at the school.

"That's why I'm so gung-ho on our athletics program," Rua said. "They gain publicity for the university. It's advertising for the university."

Broyles noted that Rua's involvement went far beyond donating money.

"When his health was good, Auggie never missed a booster club meeting," he said. "And he spoke his mind. Whether it was good or bad. When it all came down to it, he was a big Pittsburg State University football fan. And not just a football fan, but a fan of all the athletic programs."
"Auggie never missed a meeting," Jewett said, echoing Broyles. "And it didn't matter what time of year it was. Football season. Basketball season. The spring. He was always there."

"And he came to a lot of (football) practices," Broyles said. "He was very active and vocal in his support of the Gorillas."

"He was the definition of a Gorilla fan," Jewett added. "You can give to a cause by contributing money and you can give service with your time. Auggie did both."

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“His support to PSU athletics was one part of his service to the university,” said Kenneth Bauman, director of athletics.

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August and Helen Rua sat in the pressbox that was named for them after a $200,000 donation in 1988. August Rua, a Pittsburg insurance agent, died Sunday morning at the age of 81.

“Augie had a great personality, a real person, and a person of good Christian values,” said Rua.

He said he had known Rua since around 1950. “When I came out of active service in the Korean War era, I bought my first car insurance and my first house insurance from him,” Starch said.

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'The definition of a Gorilla fan'

Rua remembered for support, love of Pittsburg State athletics

By BILL McMELLEN
Morning Sun Sports Editor

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