



Our founder, Ralph Duniway, passed away peacefully on September 11, 2018. He was 91 years old.

Ralph was born in Portland, Oregon in 1927. After earning the rank of Eagle Scout, Ralph headed off to Stanford University at the age of 16. A stellar student, Ralph earned his BS and MS in Chemical Engineering as well as an MBA by 1949 while attending Stanford year-round. While at Stanford, Ralph was a proud member of the Lagunita Hashers where he oversaw a crew of students who served food, filled drinks, and cleared and cleaned dishes to their fellow students. For Ralph, “That affiliation was stronger than our housing affiliation or our academic affiliation.”

After Stanford, Ralph enlisted in the Air Force where he was stationed at the Vandenburg Air Force Base in Southern California.

After the Air Force, Ralph entered the world of vacuum with stints at Varian, Veeco, Airco Temescal and HTE before founding Duniway Stockroom in 1976. Thanks to his natural inquisitiveness, Ralph was a well-known figure around AVS meetings and events. He was quick to sidle up to a newcomer, taking an interest in who they were and what they did. Most times he would snap a picture of the newcomer in their booth and would later forward it to them in the mail with the comment, “This is to prove that you really were at the AVS show!”

We will all miss Ralph Duniway’s quick wit and ready smile.