



James Ralph Starkey

September 13, 1958 - January 31, 2025

Ralph Starkey of Centerville, MD, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 31, 2025, after a courageous battle with cancer. His devoted wife, Debbie, was by his side.

Ralph was born on September 13, 1958, in Chestertown, MD. He attended Queen Anne's County High School and Chesapeake College before embarking on a dedicated and long-standing career with the United States Postal Service.

Affectionately known as "Poppi" by his grandchildren, Ralph was a man of quick wit and great humor, always ready with a one-liner to keep everyone on their toes. Before his illness, Ralph could often be found on the golf course, in a tree stand bowhunting, or soft crabbing with his grandchildren. In his younger years, he enjoyed playing baseball, participating in slow-pitch softball, and was an avid bowler. He was also honored with the 1975 Outstanding Junior Fireman of the Year Award from the Goodwill Fire Department.

On February 26, 2012, Ralph married the love of his life, Debbie Starkey. The two met while working at the Postal Service and were inseparable throughout their 15 wonderful years together. They shared a passion for travel, especially cruises, trips to Florida, and cherished family vacations to the Outer Banks.

Ralph is survived by his loving wife, Debbie; his parents, Ralph, and Kay Starkey; his daughters, Kelsey, and Kallie Starkey; and his stepchildren, Kimberly Ozman (Mike) and Ryan Crouch (Carlie). He was the proud grandfather of Carter, Tucker, Coleson, and Bethany, who brought him immense joy, laughter, and countless memories over the years.

Ralph will be deeply missed by his family and friends, but they take comfort in knowing he is now at peace.

A celebration of Ralph's life will be held at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, 408 S. Liberty Street, Centerville, MD 21617, on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at 12:00pm, family and friends may visit starting at 11:00am.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Compass Hospice in Centerville.

Previous Events

Gathering

MAR 29. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
408 S. Liberty Street
Centreville, MD 21617

celebration of life

MAR 29. 12:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
408 S. Liberty Street
Centreville, MD 21617

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - February 25, 2025 at 01:00 PM

RF

I will always remember Ralph for his smile and the kindness in his eyes. I'm glad that you and Ralph had your wonderful times together Debbie. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Ruth Fluharty - March 25, 2025 at 06:41 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of James Ralph Starkey.*



March 27, 2025 at 02:58 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Ralph Starkey.*

March 27, 2025 at 02:58 PM

TF

“ *The Newton Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of James Ralph Starkey.*



The Newton Family - March 27, 2025 at 10:25 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Ralph Starkey.*



March 26, 2025 at 11:58 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Ralph Starkey.*

March 26, 2025 at 11:58 AM

AE

“ *Alice and Brandon Emerson purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Ralph Starkey.*



Alice and Brandon Emerson - March 26, 2025 at 09:47 AM

SJ

“ *RIP Ralph you will missed by all!!!*



Sol James - March 25, 2025 at 04:24 PM

PK

“ *Ralph gave it a hard fight. He was a wonderful person and will be sadly missed. RIP MY FRIEND 🙏🙏🙏*

Paige Kingsbury - March 08, 2025 at 10:23 AM

SO

“ *RIP Ralph you fought a long hard battle we had some good times on the golf courses You will be missed by all*



Sol - February 19, 2025 at 11:05 AM

KS

“ *So sorry to hear of Ralph's passing. He was a good man. Deepest sympathy*

Kevin Stevens - February 19, 2025 at 11:04 AM

PH

“ *Pat Haddaway lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Pat Haddaway - February 15, 2025 at 05:03 PM

PH

*So sorry, Debbie.
You 2 were so happy together.
Memories are forever .
Ralph was a kind and understanding soul, he will be missed.*

Pat Haddaway - February 15, 2025 at 05:06 PM

WH

“ *Wanda Harmon lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Wanda Harmon - February 14, 2025 at 10:52 PM

BB

“ *Betty Brittingham lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Betty Brittingham - February 14, 2025 at 05:14 PM

CE

“ Charles & Donna Edwards sent a virtual gift in memory of James Ralph Starkey



Charles & Donna Edwards - February 13, 2025 at 06:59 PM

JD

“ Jill Davis lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey



Jill Davis - February 11, 2025 at 02:05 PM

SD

“ Sharon Darling lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey



Sharon Darling - February 10, 2025 at 07:30 PM

JC

“ June Clark lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey



June Clark - February 10, 2025 at 10:55 AM

JC

*Dear Debbie and family,
I am so sorry for your loss, Ralph fought a hard battle but the Lord wanted him more. But just think of all the wonderful memories you have.. Thinking of you and the family.
June*

June Clark - February 10, 2025 at 10:58 AM

LJ

“ *Linda M. Jefferson lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Linda M. Jefferson - February 09, 2025 at 07:38 PM

BH

“ *Brenda Hahn lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Brenda Hahn - February 09, 2025 at 01:03 PM

AD

“ *Ashley Diem lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



ashley diem - February 08, 2025 at 08:32 PM

TM

“ Rodger & Terry McQuay



Terry McQuay - February 08, 2025 at 05:34 PM

DP

“ Doug Pierson lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey



Doug Pierson - February 08, 2025 at 07:53 AM

BP

“ Bill And Norma Patton lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey



Bill and Norma Patton - February 07, 2025 at 07:42 PM

CW

“ Centreville Methodist Women sent a virtual gift in memory of James Ralph Starkey



Centreville Methodist Women - February 06, 2025 at 10:17 PM

MC

“ *Sorry To Hear! Thoughts To The Family. RIP Ralph Forever.*

Marion Chance - February 06, 2025 at 08:20 PM

PM

“ *Patricia MAYER lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Patricia MAYER - February 06, 2025 at 03:50 PM

BM

“ *Brenda Morris-Dadds lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Brenda Morris-Dadds - February 06, 2025 at 01:12 PM

KM

“ *Keith Morris lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Keith Morris - February 06, 2025 at 12:38 PM

BF

“ *Barb Ford lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Barb Ford - February 06, 2025 at 11:28 AM

TK

“ *Tom Knox lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Tom Knox - February 06, 2025 at 10:39 AM

GP

“ *Gene And Lynda Palmatary sent a virtual gift in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Gene and Lynda Palmatary - February 06, 2025 at 10:27 AM

GP

Debbie, Kay and Ralph: our prayers and blessings are with all of you during your loss. Will always remember my babysitting days with him and we would always talk about it when we saw each other. I think he was so afraid of me, but would always enjoy the chocolate chip cookies my mother would bake for him. A lot of good memories in Centreville Heights. He will be missed in the Community and by his many friends. God Bless each one of you and may God shine down upon you. Prayers. Gene and Lynda

Gene and Lynda Palmatary - February 06, 2025 at 01:24 PM

ED

“ So sorry for your loss. Peace & love to all the family



Elaine Shorts Dell - February 06, 2025 at 09:43 AM

BN

“ Bob And Genevieve Norris sent a virtual gift in memory of James Ralph Starkey



Bob and Genevieve Norris - February 06, 2025 at 09:30 AM

KC

“ Deepest Condolences from Jimmy & Karen Callahan



Karen Callahan - February 06, 2025 at 08:54 AM

PW

“ Patti Kaufman Willis lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey



Patti Kaufman Willis - February 06, 2025 at 08:37 AM

HO

“ *My condolences to Ralph's family. Holly Johnson*

Holly - February 06, 2025 at 08:17 AM

JP

“ *John Payne lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



John Payne - February 05, 2025 at 10:07 PM

JP

“ *Mr. and Mrs. Starkey: So sorry to hear about the loss of your son. Thoughts and prayers go out to you during this sorrowful time. Sincerely John "Jack" Payne*

John Payne - February 05, 2025 at 10:07 PM

JS

“ *Johnny Stubbs lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Johnny Stubbs - February 05, 2025 at 09:08 PM

FT

“ Frankie Todd lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey



Frankie Todd - February 05, 2025 at 08:21 PM

RT

“ Ralph was a great friend through the years. Many great adventures and memories growing up in the Heights. He will be greatly missed! Our prayers to the family. Robbie and Debbie Towers

Robbie Towers - February 05, 2025 at 08:14 PM

DP

“ Dave And Kathy Poet lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey



Dave and Kathy Poet - February 05, 2025 at 07:53 PM

MN

“ Ralph & Kay so sorry for your Loss. Buster & Sharon Nelson



Milton L Nelson - February 05, 2025 at 07:24 PM

BG

“ *Bo And Amy Gteenwood lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Bo and Amy Gteenwood - February 05, 2025 at 07:04 PM

VB

“ *Victoria Bildstein lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Victoria Bildstein - February 05, 2025 at 06:50 PM

CM

“ *Such Sad News!
My thoughts & Prayers to the family*



Cindy Mansfield - February 05, 2025 at 06:35 PM

KC

“ *Karen L Colley lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Karen L Colley - February 05, 2025 at 06:13 PM

DW

“ *David & Kathy Wenck lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



David & kathy Wenck - February 05, 2025 at 05:07 PM

PH

“ *Phil And Joyce Hurlock lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Phil and Joyce Hurlock - February 05, 2025 at 02:59 PM

JK

“ *Jennifer And Gary Kaufman lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Jennifer and Gary Kaufman - February 05, 2025 at 02:36 PM

JE

“ *Jim And Mary Ann Edwards sent a virtual gift in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Jim and Mary Ann Edwards - February 05, 2025 at 02:12 PM

JE

To his wife Debbie,his parents,Ralph and Kay. We are so sorry for your loss.We all loved this wonderful man.Our sincere sympathy and love to you as you face life without your loved one.God Bless you.Jim and Mary Ann Edwards

jim and Mary Ann Edwards - February 05, 2025 at 02:41 PM

BC

“ *Brenda And Mark Cummings lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Brenda and Mark Cummings - February 05, 2025 at 02:01 PM



“ *Barbi Hunter lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Barbi Hunter - February 05, 2025 at 12:50 PM

RJ

“ *Ronnie And Rhonda Jewell lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Ronnie and Rhonda Jewell - February 05, 2025 at 12:34 PM

JA

“ *Jane Anthony lit a candle in memory of James Ralph Starkey*



Jane Anthony - February 05, 2025 at 11:53 AM