



Ralph Albert Retallack

February 25, 1932 - November 3, 2014

Ralph A. Retallack passed away peacefully on Monday, November 3, 2014, at The Hospice Guest Wing in Easton, MD, after suffering with Parkinson's disease.

Born on February 25, 1932, in the family home at Trappe Station, Oxford, MD, he was the son of the late Ralph and Lucille McWilliams Retallack.

Ralph graduated from Easton High School in 1949. He first worked for his father's contracting company, Retallack and Willey, who built several homes in and around Oxford, including rebuilding the Holy Trinity Church after it was destroyed by fire in 1945 and the rebuilding of the Oxford United Methodist Church, utilizing mules to dig the basement.

Ralph joined the U.S. Air Force in 1951, serving in the Korean War. He was honorably discharged in 1959.

He married the former Patricia May Bryan in 1956.

Mr. Retallack attended the American Standard Plumbing School. While employed by the William C. Frey Company, he was charged with installing the water, sewer, and pumping stations in many towns on the Delmarva Peninsula including Smith Island. He later formed an underground utilities company with

Rodney V. R. Spring, known as Retallack and Spring, Inc., from which he retired in 1992. Ralph was known as an innovator and continues to be well respected in the field of water and sewer installation.

As a lifelong resident of Oxford, the town called on his expertise countless times to solve issues relating to the mechanical workings of the town. He and his heavy equipment were seen day and night cleaning the streets after heavy snow storms. All of this he did voluntarily.

He was a member of the vestry of the Holy Trinity Church where Ralph, his son Miles, and Lt. Col. Paul Martin, erected the bell that stands today. He was also a member of BOE 1622.

Ralph was a lifetime member of the Oxford Fire Department, serving in many engineering positions throughout his life, including Chief Engineer for many years, receiving countless awards for his service. He was the absolute best mind the Fire Department had when it came to handling complicated engineering issues.

Ralph had a special love for antique steam and gas engines. He exhibited his collection routinely at many venues including the Threshermen's Show at the Tuckahoe Steam & Gas Show. He restored a 1965 ½ Mustang Convertible and a 1924 Model T. Truck, both to their original glory. He took great pride in explaining the details of his restorations to anyone who asked. Ralph had a true talent for all thing mechanical.

Mr. Retallack is survived by his son, Ralph Miles Retallack (Joanne); his daughter, Marrie Retallack; four grandchildren, Petty Officer 3rd Class, Patrick Retallack, Spencer Retallack, Amanda Retallack and Carrie Leonard; three siblings, Iris Willis, Joseph Retallack and Lucie Prettyman; several nieces and nephews, his longtime companion, Joy Ervin, and their feline runner, the cat.

In addition to his parents, Ralph was preceded in death by his sister, Rose Tristram, and a half-brother, Burton Seymour.

Friends may call on Friday, November 7, 2014, from 3-5 p.m. at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A., 200 S. Harrison St., in Easton. A graveside service will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2014, at 11 a.m. at Oxford Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made to the Oxford Vol. Fire Dept., 300 Oxford Rd. Oxford, MD 21654 or Talbot Hospice Foundation, 586 Cynwood Drive, Easton, MD 21601.

Cemetery Details

Oxford Cemetery

Oxford, MD

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 7. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Easton Location
200 S Harrison St
Easton, MD 21601
(410) 822-3131
info@fhfuneralhome.com

Graveside Service

NOV 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Oxford Cemetery
Oxford, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Ralph Albert Retallack*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Ralph Albert Retallack*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Ralph Albert Retallack*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *So sorry for you loss!*



Ginny & Gary Moran - November 11, 2014 at 01:57 PM



“ *Miles & family
Wheeler and I wanted to express our condolences for your loss.
May you find comfort in the memories you share with family and
friends during this time of sadness.*

Wheeler and Holly Baker

Wheeler Baker - November 10, 2014 at 06:25 AM

V#

“ *With Deepest Sympathy*

May it be a source of comfort at this time of sorrow that others share your loss and wish that they could comfort you.

Veterans of Foreign Wars #5118 - November 08, 2014 at 03:05 PM

AT

“ *Amber Royer Tefft lit a candle in memory of Ralph Albert Retallack*



Amber Royer Tefft - November 07, 2014 at 05:15 PM

DA

“ *Joy, Miles and Marrie;*

I am very sorry to hear of Ralph's passing and my deepest sympathy goes out you and the rest of your family. Ralph was a brilliant man and I'll always be grateful to him for teaching me so much about utility construction and also how to make a fire engine get there fast and pump a lot of water. I enjoyed hanging around with him at the firehouse, and even though I could never beat him at poker, I could always count on a laugh and learning something new. I'm sorry that I won't be able to attend the services this weekend, but please know that my thoughts are with all of you and the great times I had with Ralph.

Doug Abbott

Doug Abbott - November 07, 2014 at 03:11 PM

AC

“ *Amy Clopper lit a candle in memory of Ralph Albert Retallack*



Amy Clopper - November 06, 2014 at 04:34 PM

NG

“ *I will always remember the good times Mr. Ralph and my father had attending the Tuckahoe Steam & Gas show and the Eastern Shore Threshermen show. Dad was also very envious of Mr. Ralph's Model T. My condolences to Ms. Joy and the rest of the family.*

Nick Greenhawk

Nick Greenhawk - November 05, 2014 at 12:33 PM

PB

“ *I am thinking about you, Joy. Sorry for your loss. Remembering the times we spent together. Pat Bunting*

Pat Bunting - November 05, 2014 at 07:53 AM

JA

“ *Ms. Joy- you have been on an incredible journey and remained loyal and committed. May Ralph rest in peace and may you find comfort and serenity in memories of days gone by.*

*Fondly,
Jane Anthony*

Jane Anthony - November 04, 2014 at 05:27 PM