



## William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.

January 28, 1951 - March 17, 2020

Capt. William Merritt "Scratch" Ashley, Jr. of Rock Hall, MD, died on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Easton. He was 69.

Born on January 28, 1951, in Rock Hall, he was the son of the late William M. Ashley, Sr. and Shirley Collyer Ashley. He graduated from Rock Hall High School, Class of 1969 and worked as a self-employed waterman until September 9, 1973, when he began his career as a tugboat captain. He worked with Local 25, International Union of Operating Engineers. He was a 50+ year dedicated member and past Commander of the Sons of the American Legion where he was known for his cooking ability and fundraising programs. Scratch was always up for a good time and will be remembered for his sense of humor, quick wit, and kind demeanor. Scratch would stop traffic to tell a story, cussed a bit, would give you his last dime or cigarette and expected nothing in return. He was loyal to his friends, loved his family more than scrapple, was a flirt and a charmer, he was always kind and seemed to find the good in most people. Scratch loved his hometown and it pretty much loved him right back.

He was a member of Elks Lodge #2474 in Chestertown, the Rock Hall Lions Club, Kent County Waterman's Association and the Kent County Gun Club. He was also active in Habitat for Humanity and the Chesapeake Bay Maritime

Museum and played softball.

He is survived by his daughter, Jennifer Willis (Bob); two sons, William M. Ashley, III (Jenny) and Aaron P. Ashley; three siblings, Andrea Jacquette (Jimmy), Mike Ashley (Cheryl) and Candy Porter (David); twelve grandchildren, Alexis, Sydney, Lily, Macy, Cameron, Bobby, Bella, Merritt, Anthony, Katie, Cooper, and Clayton; and one great grandson, Hudson.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, from 12:00 noon to 7:00 pm at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, Chestertown, MD. Interment will be private on Wednesday at Wesley Chapel Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home. Due to State Regulations, we will be limiting the number of visitors at a time in the building, during the visitation.

# Previous Events

**Due to State Regulations, we will be limiting the number of visitors in the building, during the vis**

MAR **24**. 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Chestertown Location  
130 Speer Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
(410) 778-0055  
[info@fhnfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@fhnfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - March 25, 2020 at 08:58 AM

PJ

*Beautiful sermon.fly high scratch*

Pres and Sherrie jacobs - March 25, 2020 at 06:12 PM



“ *William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

KR

“ Billy and me played together in childhood at his Mom's (Shirley) house. My Mom (Annabelle Reynolds) was my Mom and somehow we were related. After my Mom passed I called Shirley to let her know. We had several conversations and Shirley's voice had not changed over all the years.

*When his Mom passed a few years ago I missed her stories and now Billy you will be with your Mom*

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**kathleen reynolds** - April 06, 2020 at 05:26 PM

BC

“ So sorry to here of Scratch's passing. He was good friends to all of us Clothier men. He was especially helpful getting my brother Johnny.s house remodel. I will never forget his laugh. What a great guy. I will always remember the letter he wrote where he , stated when the last chicken necker leaves Rockhall please turn off the lights. Scratch Ashley the man the myth the legend. Love and prayers Barry and Jeannie Clothier ,Johnny Clothier



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**Barry and Jeannie Clothier** - April 04, 2020 at 12:38 PM

FT

“ Freddie Taylor lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



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**Freddie Taylor** - March 24, 2020 at 06:46 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - March 24, 2020 at 08:08 AM

FT

*Scratch I will always remember the good times we share you had a special place in the hearts of squadron 77 you will be missed*

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**Freddie Taylor** - March 24, 2020 at 06:49 PM

KN

“ *Jen and family so sorry for your loss. Will keep all of you in my thoughts and prayers,*



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**Kevin and Debbie Nelson** - March 23, 2020 at 07:50 PM

LD

“ *Scratch was an amazing guy. He was always kind and a lot of fun. I will remember the good times. He will be sadly missed. Sending hugs and prayers to his family.*

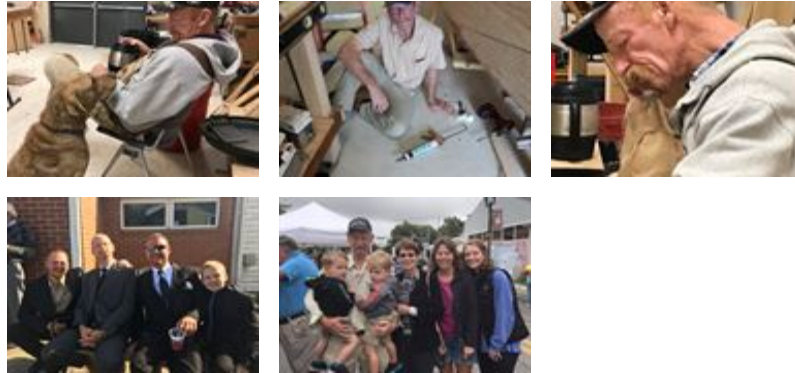


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**Lydia Dagenais** - March 23, 2020 at 04:32 PM



“ 22 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



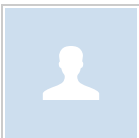
**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - March 23, 2020 at 02:48 PM



“ *I am sure Scratch and my dad "Ray Cat" are having a blast!!! so sorry for the loss of a great man..*



**Amy Reynolds Geisel** - March 23, 2020 at 02:47 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr..*



March 23, 2020 at 01:51 PM

HF

“ *The world was a better place with him in it. Sending lots of love and prayers to all of his family and his friends. ❤️*



Heidi Fuchs - March 23, 2020 at 10:10 AM

DL

“ *Dinky And Laura lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



Dinky and Laura - March 23, 2020 at 10:04 AM

BC

“ *Butch Coleman lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



Butch Coleman - March 23, 2020 at 09:56 AM

MJ

“ *A lesser man would have succumbed long ago. He was tougher than a fella toenail ! Best wishes to the family.*

Michael Johnson - March 23, 2020 at 09:43 AM

JB

“ Jeff & Sandra Baker lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Jeff & Sandra Baker - March 22, 2020 at 08:41 PM

CT

“ Carroll Thompson lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Carroll Thompson - March 22, 2020 at 08:13 PM

LC

“ Lynn Chaires lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Lynn Chaires - March 22, 2020 at 02:20 PM

LC

“ Scratch was a wonderful man. He has made many friends in his many years and won't be forgotten. Glad he was able to spend Christmas Eve dinner with my family and New Years at my sister Lea's home. Sorry we couldn't have spent more time with him...he was fun to be around. Our sympathy goes out to the whole family. Scratch you are in a better place and will be missed....Jamie and Lynn Chaires.

Lynn Chaires - March 22, 2020 at 02:19 PM

GW

“ Grayson Wise lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Grayson Wise - March 22, 2020 at 01:34 PM

KB

“ Karen Bigelow lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Karen Bigelow - March 21, 2020 at 06:54 PM

KB

Andrea, Mike and Candy I am so sorry to learn of Billy's passing. There are no words to express my sympathy for you. Remember the good times as they are what will help you deal with this, and one day you will be united again. Love to all. Karen

Karen Bigelow - March 21, 2020 at 06:57 PM

BJ

“ Sending my thoughts and prayer to Scratch's family. ❤️ Rock Hall has lost an awesome man !  
Rip Scarth until we meet again my friend.



Barbie Joiner - March 21, 2020 at 05:05 PM

EL

“ Ellen lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Ellen - March 21, 2020 at 04:21 PM

BW

“ Basil & Diane Wadkovsky lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Basil & Diane Wadkovsky - March 21, 2020 at 04:00 PM



“ Rest easy Scratch. Thank you for all the good memories. I will carry them in my heart.



Linda Bradford - March 21, 2020 at 12:25 PM

SP

“ Scratch was a good friend and customer of the Village Tavern. Good person to know. God rest is soul

skipper Price - March 21, 2020 at 10:34 AM

VE

“ *Great man!*



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**Veronica** - March 21, 2020 at 09:43 AM

RK

“ *Ruth Kerr lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



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**Ruth Kerr** - March 21, 2020 at 09:04 AM

RK

*Andrea, Mike and Candy,  
So sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.*

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**Ruth Kerr** - March 21, 2020 at 09:07 AM

DC

“ *If Scratch ever had a bad day, he never revealed it. He brightened everyone's days with his smile, wit, kind words and stories. He was a gift to everyone whose path he crossed.  
May God hastily comfort his family and all of his many friends. Doug and Misti Cloman*

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**Doug and Misti Cloman** - March 21, 2020 at 08:54 AM

BS

“ Bill Spencer lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Bill Spencer - March 21, 2020 at 08:38 AM



“ Annie, Candy and Mike, There are no words to help with the sorrow and sadness you are feeling as we all as family and community are. I will miss that laugh hug and kiss I got no matter where I seen him. He was my cuz my classmate and best of all my friend..Love you all....Brenda



Brenda Biddle - March 21, 2020 at 08:35 AM

PC

“ Phil Clark lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Phil Clark - March 21, 2020 at 01:24 AM

CF

“ Connie Fithian lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Connie Fithian - March 21, 2020 at 12:34 AM

JB

“ *Jim And Louise Bigelow lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



Jim and Louise Bigelow - March 20, 2020 at 08:53 PM

SW

“ *Shawyn Watson lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



Shawyn Watson - March 20, 2020 at 08:48 PM

SB

“ *Todd & Susan Barnhardt*



Susan & Todd Barnhardt - March 20, 2020 at 07:22 PM

DD

“ *Debbie Dalrymple lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



Debbie Dalrymple - March 20, 2020 at 07:13 PM

LH

“ *Laura & Dennis Herrmann lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



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**Laura & Dennis Herrmann** - March 20, 2020 at 06:46 PM

TT

“ *Trish And Eddie Taylor lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



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**Trish and Eddie Taylor** - March 20, 2020 at 05:59 PM

CK

“ *Cindy KING lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



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**Cindy KING** - March 20, 2020 at 05:37 PM

ED

“ *my condolences to all, RIP ole boy*

*eddie price*



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**eddie** - March 20, 2020 at 03:57 PM

LE

“ *Deepest condolences. He was good friends with my father, Jim Smith. Rock Hall legends are sadly , fading away.*



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**Lisa Elborn** - March 20, 2020 at 03:35 PM

JC

“ *Jack & Sylvia Christian lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



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**Jack & Sylvia Christian** - March 20, 2020 at 03:12 PM

JA

*So sorry for the loss of a wonderful friend*

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**Jack** - March 20, 2020 at 03:13 PM

LB

“ *Thinking of your family in this tough time, fly high.*



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**Lana Baker** - March 20, 2020 at 01:38 PM

ZC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**ziggy carter** - March 20, 2020 at 11:54 AM

EA

“ Edith Armstead lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



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**Edith Armstead** - March 20, 2020 at 10:10 AM

WA

“ Wanda Akers lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



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**Wanda Akers** - March 20, 2020 at 09:57 AM

BB

“ Barney And Kaye Barnes lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



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**Barney and Kaye Barnes** - March 20, 2020 at 09:43 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr..*



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March 20, 2020 at 09:27 AM

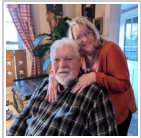


“ *Marie Usilton lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



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**Marie Usilton** - March 20, 2020 at 09:26 AM



“ *There will never be another Scratch... and Rock Hall will never be the same without her legendary life blood. No prouder son of Rock Hall will we ever know or love. May your nets be full and the tides take you safely to shore. We will see you when the trumpet sounds ole boy... until then, keep your pencil sharp and your saw blade even sharper!*



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**Charlie Shahan** - March 20, 2020 at 09:23 AM



“ *Denny Sr lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



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**denny sr** - March 20, 2020 at 09:12 AM

DS

*you will truly be missed ole buddy*

denny sr - March 20, 2020 at 09:14 AM

LE

“ *Linda Elburn Ellison lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



Linda Elburn Ellison - March 20, 2020 at 08:57 AM



“ *Kim Conley sent a virtual gift in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



Kim Conley - March 20, 2020 at 08:51 AM

LC

“ *Louise And Billy Clayton lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



Louise and Billy Clayton - March 20, 2020 at 08:48 AM

SD

“ *Sheila Blyman Dlugoborski lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



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**Sheila Blyman Dlugoborski** - March 20, 2020 at 08:41 AM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr..*



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March 20, 2020 at 08:41 AM

PG

“ *Pat Grussing lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*

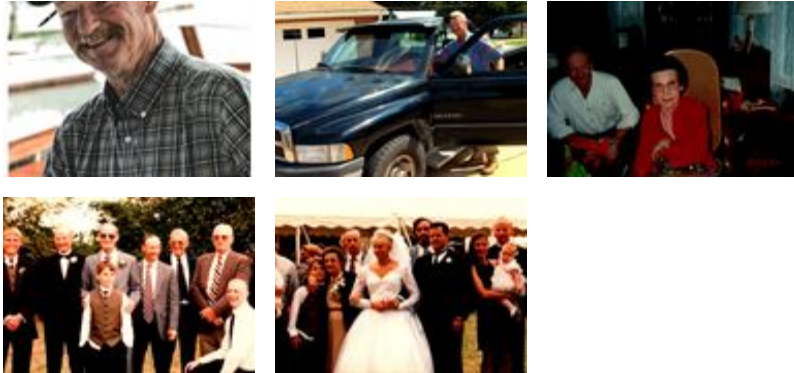


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**Pat Grussing** - March 20, 2020 at 08:36 AM



“ 62 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - March 20, 2020 at 08:13 AM

LS

“ *Liz Smith lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



Liz Smith - March 20, 2020 at 07:07 AM

RJ

“ *ROBBIE-ROBIN JOINER lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



ROBBIE-ROBIN JOINER - March 20, 2020 at 07:02 AM

JS

“ Jeanette Stubbs lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



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**Jeanette Stubbs** - March 20, 2020 at 06:58 AM

JG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jerry Gosman** - March 20, 2020 at 01:33 AM

JG

*Scratch planted Lima's and maters in my yard every year. The best neighbor ever.*

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**Jerry Gosman** - March 20, 2020 at 01:35 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr..



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March 20, 2020 at 01:21 AM

FD

“ Frankie & Jane Dill sent a virtual gift in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



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**Frankie & Jane Dill** - March 19, 2020 at 10:56 PM

JM

“ Jennifer Morris lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



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**Jennifer Morris** - March 19, 2020 at 10:42 PM

DE

“ Donna Hubbard Edwards lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



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**Donna Hubbard Edwards** - March 19, 2020 at 09:36 PM

BW

“ Betty Walker lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



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**Betty Walker** - March 19, 2020 at 08:11 PM

BE

“ Bonnie & Ron Edwards lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Bonnie & Ron Edwards - March 19, 2020 at 07:20 PM

BS

“ Bill And Marie Sweeney lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Bill and Marie Sweeney - March 19, 2020 at 07:11 PM

LW

“ Lisa Williams lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Lisa Williams - March 19, 2020 at 07:03 PM

JH

“ Jeff Hines lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Jeff Hines - March 19, 2020 at 05:17 PM

SC

“ Steve & Bonnie Cullis lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Steve & Bonnie Cullis - March 19, 2020 at 04:57 PM

NH

“ Nancy Hubbard lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Nancy Hubbard - March 19, 2020 at 04:50 PM

NH

You could always depend on " Scratch' for a good laugh. RIP you will be missed

Nancy Hubbard - March 19, 2020 at 04:54 PM

JC

“ Jerry & Coleman Coleman lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Jerry & Coleman Coleman - March 19, 2020 at 03:51 PM

RO

“ Rosemary lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Rosemary - March 19, 2020 at 03:29 PM

RO

“ RJ & Kristi Osborn lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



RJ & Kristi Osborn - March 19, 2020 at 02:53 PM

AE

“ Andrea & Timmy Edwards lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Andrea & Timmy Edwards - March 19, 2020 at 02:35 PM

DH

“ Denny And Judy Hickman lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Denny and Judy Hickman - March 19, 2020 at 01:46 PM

DH

“ Dan Hines lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Dan Hines - March 19, 2020 at 01:45 PM

PM

“ Pan And Tommy Marvel lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Pan and Tommy Marvel - March 19, 2020 at 01:25 PM

TT

“ Tonya Thomas lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Tonya Thomas - March 19, 2020 at 01:07 PM

RC

“ Ron Collyer lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Ron Collyer - March 19, 2020 at 12:52 PM

RC

*Way too soon! Heartfelt condolences to Annie, Mike and Candy.*

**Ron Collyer** - March 19, 2020 at 12:54 PM

RF

“*Rosie Gagalski And Family lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



**Rosie Gagalski and Family** - March 19, 2020 at 12:43 PM

MS

“*Mike and family my Prayers are with you.*

**Marie Spray** - March 19, 2020 at 12:35 PM

MR

“*Max & Maryann Ruehrmund lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



**Max & Maryann Ruehrmund** - March 19, 2020 at 12:28 PM

MR

*Forever grateful to a really good friend, taken much too soon. Fair winds and following seas.*

**Max & Maryann Ruehrmund** - March 19, 2020 at 12:30 PM

MW

“ Mandy Worth lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Mandy Worth - March 19, 2020 at 12:17 PM

SP

“ Seth R Powell lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Seth R Powell - March 19, 2020 at 12:16 PM

SP

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Seth R Powell - March 19, 2020 at 12:16 PM

FF

“ Frank Filling lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Frank Filling - March 19, 2020 at 12:13 PM



“ Craig And Debi Ingram lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



**craig and debi ingram** - March 19, 2020 at 12:09 PM



“ Cheryl Butler And Brendon lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



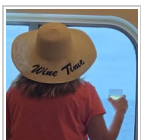
**Cheryl Butler and Brendon** - March 19, 2020 at 12:04 PM



“ Frankie And Cathy Legg lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



**Frankie and Cathy Legg** - March 19, 2020 at 11:55 AM



“ Sherry Williams lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



**Sherry Williams** - March 19, 2020 at 11:50 AM

MJ

“ *Mark & Sandy Joiner lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



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**Mark & Sandy Joiner** - March 19, 2020 at 11:46 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Robin Wood Kurowski** - March 19, 2020 at 11:45 AM



“ *Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar  
When I put out to sea,*

*But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.*

*Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark;  
For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crost the bar.*



Robin Wood Kurowski - March 19, 2020 at 11:42 AM



“ *Jo Ann Edwards lit a candle in memory of  
William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.*



Jo Ann Edwards - March 19, 2020 at 11:38 AM



*He was one of a kind and we will miss him dearly. Rest in peace  
Scratch.*

Jo Ann Edwards - March 19, 2020 at 11:40 AM

DO

“ Doris Olsen lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Doris Olsen - March 19, 2020 at 11:19 AM

DO

Three years ago to the day I lost Dennis and now a good friend of ours has gone to be with him in heaven along with Ms. Shirley. Sure will miss you.

Doris Olsen - March 19, 2020 at 11:21 AM

SM

Andera and family, so sorry to hear about the passing of your brother. Mom and I send you love, thoughts and prayers.

Sandy McClary - March 20, 2020 at 08:49 AM

JH

Sorry that Billy passed away.

Jack Heinefield - March 20, 2020 at 04:59 PM

PS

“ Pres & Sherrie lit a candle in memory of William "Scratch" Ashley Jr.



Pres & Sherrie - March 19, 2020 at 11:12 AM