



## William J. Riley

June 7, 1924 - January 2, 2019

A Mass of Christian Burial for William James Riley of Easton, MD, will be held at noon, Friday, January 11, at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, 1210 S. Washington Street in Easton. Visitation will be held one hour prior at the church. The Rev. James Nash will be the celebrant. Burial will be at 2 p.m. Monday, January 14, at the Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery, 6827 E. New Market - Elwood Road, in Hurlock, MD.

A World War II veteran who went to sea for nearly 50 years with the U.S. Merchant Marine, Mr. Riley died at Genesis Elder Care-The Pines in Easton on Tuesday morning, January 2, 2019. He was 94. Born June 7, 1924 in Sacramento, CA, he was the son of William Riley and Ellen Blanche Hooper Riley.

Mr. Riley served aboard the D.G. Scofield during 1944 and 1945 and aboard the W.H. Berg during 1945. Those ships were stationed in North Africa and the South Pacific. He was appointed a Midshipman U.S. Naval Reserve - MR on August 8, 1944.

During the war, he was awarded the Merchant Marine Emblem, the Pacific War Zone Bar and the Honorable Service Button. In the Korean War, he served aboard merchant munitions and troop ships, including the General Meigs. He also served aboard merchant munitions and troop ships during the

Vietnam War. Mr. Riley was an Ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1949 to 1961. His favorite ship he served on was the luxury liner S.S. United States. He remained friends with some of the men with whom he served in the engine room onboard that ship. He sailed with the United States Lines, Matson Navigation, America Hess and several other shipping lines over the years.

He retired with the rank of chief engineer in April 1992. He was a proud member and then pensioner of the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association union.

He attended the University of California at Berkeley and the University of San Francisco. He would go to sea for several months to earn money for schooling, then return to California to study. He also took numerous courses at the Calhoun MEBA Engineering School in Baltimore and then in Easton. Over the years, Mr. Riley lived many places around the world, including France, Germany, Scandinavia, New York City, and Honolulu.

He was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Church and American Legion Post 70 in Easton.

He and the former Denise Kathleen Perry were married in Chestertown on May 29, 1990. They lived for many years at Landing Neck, between Trappe and Easton.

In addition to his wife of 28 years, Mr. Riley is survived by his brothers-in-law, Bruce H. Perry (Louise), of Easton, Bruce E. Perry (Patricia) of Easton, William E. Jackson (Debra Perry) and Tyler M. Whiteley Sr. (Kimberly Perry) of Easton; four nephews, Joshua B. Perry, Tyler M. Whiteley Jr., who is also Mr. Riley's godson, Brady P. Jackson, and Gerald La Fleur; seven nieces, Katherine P. Ewers, Caroline H. Spurry, Colin Denise Perry, Amber Perry, Faith Whiteley, Kamryn Whiteley and Courtney J. Moore; and 14 great-nieces

and great nephews, Cole, Graham, Khloe, Rhemington, Kemper, Kherington, Atlee, Winnie, Calleesi, Margaret, Caroline, Nicholas, Finn and Declan.

Memorial donations may be made to the Waterfowl Chesapeake, earmarked for the William A. Perry Scholarship Fund, 40 S. Harrison St., Easton, MD 21601, or to Channel Marker, 8865 Glebe Park Drive, Easton, MD 21601.

# Cemetery Details

## Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery

Hurlock, MD

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

JAN 11. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church  
1210 South Washington Street  
Easton, MD 21601

## Funeral Liturgy

JAN 11. 12:00 PM (ET)

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church  
1210 S. Washington St  
Easton, MD 21601

# Tribute Wall



“ *William J. Riley*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *William J. Riley*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *William J. Riley*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *The Altvater Family lit a candle in memory of William J. Riley*



**The Altvater Family** - January 07, 2019 at 11:39 PM



“ *'Riley' was a favorite among favorites. We will miss him, also. Our hearts are with Denise.*

*Love, Linda Schwarten Evans & John P. Evans III*

**Linda S. Evans** - January 07, 2019 at 03:35 PM

AG

“ Alice F Gadow lit a candle in memory of William J. Riley



Alice F Gadow - January 04, 2019 at 11:07 PM

AG

Denise, my heart is with you at this time. May God comfort your heart....so sorry!

Alice F Gadow - January 04, 2019 at 11:09 PM

CF

“ Carey Foster lit a candle in memory of William J. Riley



Carey Foster - January 04, 2019 at 03:31 AM

RB

“ Richard & June Billman lit a candle in memory of William J. Riley



Richard & June Billman - January 03, 2019 at 07:48 PM