



Ralph James

April 2, 1920 - July 27, 2017

Ralph James passed peacefully at home on Thursday morning, surrounded by the love and comfort of his family. He was born April 2, 1920 to Joseph Henry James and Rhoda Mae Nelson in Tucson, Arizona.

Ralph lived every single day of his 97 years to the absolute fullest, never wasting a minute - or a cent, if he could help it. Ralph can best be remembered for his wit and sense of humor. He always had a sparkle in his eye, and a mischievous grin that would be the prelude to a joke or a story that almost always began with "I'll never forget the time ...". Others may remember him covered with dirt, oil or grease, always in the midst of his latest project. He tackled each one with the same fervor and passion, and his projects filled most of his days for the large majority of his 97 years.

Ralph was the kind of man who would remain married to his wife Dorothy, for over 70 years, until her death in May 2010. During that span, Ralph purposely lost every disagreement and patiently agreed with his wife on nearly every point until she had said her piece. Like his late wife, Dorothy, Ralph never met a stranger in his life, and he was quick to open up his home, his wallet, or give generously of his time to anyone in need.

In addition to raising their 3 children, Janice, Stephen and Kathy, Ralph and Dorothy adopted their niece, Dolly and their nephew Danny as their own. While the remaining nieces and nephews were not legally adopted, they were lovingly cared for and welcomed into Ralph and Dorothy's home. Ralph was the kind of father who wouldn't blink to drive cross country to see his daughter perform in a ballet in New York City, or anywhere in the country to watch a softball game. Ralph was the kind of man who would happily drive his granddaughters around all day on a fool's errand, knowing all the while that what they were looking for could not be found. He never hesitated to lend a hand, often spending days or weeks at a time to help a neighbor, friend or even a stranger with any need.

Ralph was a true patriot in every sense of the word, having fought in World War II as a Chief Petty officer in the United States Navy. He was involved in offshore naval support for American troops in the Korean War and voluntarily put himself in harm's way as a

consultant for the United States military in Vietnam,

Ralph was a man of great conviction and passion for many things throughout his life; One of which was BYU football, much to the chagrin of his Utah-Utes loving grandchildren. He was known to risk the wrath of his wife to run off to a BYU bowl game, leaving only one of his infamous notes to account for his absence. "D, Gone to Holiday Bowl. Back Monday. R."

True to his nature, Ralph worried and planned over the security and well-being of his loved ones to his days, and never complained about any pain or discomfort. Ralph was a man who required little but gave all. His legacy will be one of patience, selflessness, immense generosity, sacrifice and love of family. Through those attributes and values, he touched the lives of numerous family members, friends, neighbors and probably countless strangers. While he may no longer be with us physically, his life and lessons will remain, having touched us all. Through that legacy, he will remain with us always and never be forgotten.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents, siblings and late wife, Dorothy. He is survived by his 5 children, 11 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, July 31, 2017 in the chapel located at the Utah Veterans Memorial Park, 17111 S. Camp Williams Road, Bluffdale, UT. Viewing will be one hour prior to the services. Burial with military honors will follow.

Comments



“ I am so sorry to read of this loss of a precious life. May you gain strength and comfort by pouring out your emotions to God in prayer.

Pat - August 05, 2017 at 01:29 PM



“ Ralph and Josephine's Birthday celebrated together. Fresno, CA 2013.



Wendy Ogawa - August 05, 2017 at 01:57 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



greg - July 30, 2017 at 06:43 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



greg - July 30, 2017 at 06:42 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



greg - July 30, 2017 at 06:41 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. May you gain comfort by pouring out your deepest emotions in prayer to God.

Pat - July 29, 2017 at 01:46 PM



“ Ralph you will always be in our heart. I love and will miss you. I am grateful and honored to have you share your last dance with me...It meant so much to me.

JoAnn Sorensen - July 29, 2017 at 12:18 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Premier Funeral Services - July 28, 2017 at 07:52 PM



“ This was his 97th birthday!

JoAnn - July 29, 2017 at 12:19 PM



“ I will forever miss you me brother

Vicky Gardner / sister - July 29, 2017 at 01:19 PM



“ To Dolly and the James family : Peace and blessings to you all! I lived down the street from your family, on 15th east and 996south and was a friend of Dollys. Ralph was always teasing and joking with you guys until he could hide out and watch TV! So much patience - which was put to a test daily by Dolly and !!

Kathy Watts (Kathleen Ballaine) - July 30, 2017 at 02:57 PM



“ Sounds like someone I would've like to know. The would would be a better place if we were as selfless as Ralph. Our condolences to the James family.

Michael - July 30, 2017 at 07:32 PM