



Mr. Ralph B. Atkins

November 20, 1939 - January 1, 2026

Ralph Brian Atkins, 86, of Pittsfield MA, peacefully passed away on January 1, 2026. Ralph was born on November 20, 1939, the only child of Albert H and Edna (Goedrig) Atkins, in Buffalo, NY. Ralph graduated from Bennett High School and Clarkson College with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

In June of 1961, Ralph began a career as a technical writer at the General Electric Ordnance plant in Pittsfield MA, working on technical manuals for the Polaris Fleet Ballistic Missile Program. While working at GE, Ralph received an MBA from the University of Massachusetts.

In 1980, Ralph transferred to the Strategic Weapons Facility in Bremerton WA, where he initially continued to work on publications. Thereafter, he transferred into a Field Engineering roll.

In 2005, Ralph returned to the General Dynamics Mission Systems facility in Pittsfield MA where he provided product support for the FBM weapon systems. Ralph retired in 2015 with over 54 years of service.

Ralph enjoyed sailing trips, and travel, both locally and to Europe and Hawaii.

Funeral Notice:

There will not be any local funeral services. Ralph will be interred in the family cemetery plot in Tonawanda NY at a later date.

Tribute Wall

RF

“ My aunt Marge was married and divorced Edna's brother years ago. Aunt Marge, Edna and Ralph remained friends for live. They always treated us as family. Ralph visited us in Orchard Park NY a few years ago. I would be interested in paying my respects in Tonawanda this summer.

RONALD FINK - March 30 at 02:07 PM

DS

“ Ralph was such a dear man. He and my mom were cousins. Ralph always remembered my mom with cards and phone calls. He continued to stay in touch with me after my mom passed at the age of 103 in 2024. May he rest in peace. ❤️

Debbie Storts - January 25 at 06:53 PM

CC

“ I will truly miss Ralph. He joined us for many holidays when he lived in Washington. I loved talking with him, and he made all of our family gatherings more joyful.

Christin Correll

Christin Correll - January 10 at 10:20 AM

RC

“ Ralph and I worked together at the Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific for almost 15 years. He was a great friend and considered part of my family. It was never Christmas without Ralph being there. When he moved back to Pittsfield our General Dynamics group sorely missed him and his work ethic. May he rest in peace. (The picture of him was taken in my backyard)

Roger Correll

Roger Correll - January 09 at 02:30 PM

FP

“ Ralph was a wonderful man. He would always take time to help clarify any question you may have. I was fortunate enough to meet him when I was a sailor and then especially when I transitioned to the civilian world and joined General Dynamics. When he moved to Pittsfield and I visited he was always working, and we would drag him to Sims for debriefing. Prayers and thoughts to the family and rest in peach my friend. Fred Perkins and family

Fred Perkins - January 08 at 11:15 AM

CG

Ralph was the nicest man. Very smart, always respectful, a great listener, and always willing to help in any way he could. At work, he ran many of our meetings and kept us all on all track. He always inquired about my dogs and cats and enjoyed hearing about their antics. Ralph was a great guy who will be missed by many.

Cindy Golin - January 09 at 10:06 AM

PK

Ralph had a good sense of humor. He enjoyed traveling, reading, learning and spending time with friends discussing his interests. He and Wally were good friends. We visited him most summers. Ralph was very interested in functional and homeopathic medicine. He was a good, caring friend. We will miss him. Wally & Pat Krouson

Patricia Krouson - January 10 at 12:23 PM