



Ralph A. Decker

May 22, 1932 - November 2, 2017

Ralph A. Decker, 85, of Pittsfield passed away Thursday evening, November 2, 2017. Born May 22, 1932, he was the son of Ralph O. and Estelle Richards Decker. Ralph attended Pittsfield Schools and earned an Associate's Degree in Fire Science from Berkshire Community College.

Ralph was a proud seaman in the US Navy, serving from 1951 until 1954 during the Korean War. He was assigned to Key West, FL aboard the submarine rescue vessel, the ASR-12 USS Penguin. He earned the National Defense Medal.

A lifelong resident of Pittsfield, Ralph spent 33 years as a Fireman for the City of Pittsfield Fire Department, rising to the rank of Lieutenant and Acting Captain. Ralph took pride in his community and was an active member of the Pittsfield Senior Center and the Pittsfield Permanent Fire Association. For 28 years he was a Friend of Bill Wilson. On August 28, 1979, he became the Commander of American Legion Post 68, Pittsfield.

Ralph leaves behind his wife, the former Mary Lou Powers, whom he married on October 2, 1954 at St. Mark's Church. He leaves his children: Donna Decker and her partner John Sharp, Glen Decker and his wife Karen, Juliann Decker and her husband Christopher DePierro, and Maribeth Decker-Daoust and her husband Michael Daoust. He also leaves one sibling, Raymond Decker. He will be dearly missed by his 8 grandchildren: Caitlin Francis, Alyssa Catlin, Courtney Decker, Kellan Reck, Cory Decker, Brendan Daoust, Carly Decker, and Bridget Daoust. As well, his three great-grandchildren:

Austin Shepard-Decker and Samantha and Sadie Catlin.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Barbara Fontaine and his brother Robert Decker.

Funeral Notice:

Funeral services for Ralph A. Decker will be Monday, November 6, 2017, with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. at St. Charles Church, celebrated by the Rev. Michael J. Wood, Jr., Administrator. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Cemetery. Calling hours will be held Sunday, November 5, 2017 from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North St., Pittsfield, MA. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Ralph J. Froio Senior Center Supportive Day Program or Mt. Greylock Extended Care Activities Program, care of the Dwyer Funeral Home, in his memory. DONATIONS CANNOT BE MADE ONLINE, BUT MAY BE MADE THROUGH THE DWYER FUNERAL HOME.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Cemetery

222 Peck's Rd.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 5. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Dwyer Family Funeral Home
776 North Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 442-5094
info@dwyerfuneral.com
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

Service

NOV 6. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Charles Church
89 Briggs Ave.
Pittsfield, MA 01201
<http://stcharlespittsfield.org/>

Tribute Wall

TT

“ I just found out what happen I am so sorry for ur lost decker family. Mr.Decker was a wonderful funny man and he will be deeply miss

theresa thompson - January 19, 2018 at 07:35 PM

ML

“ From our family, The Lords, we send our deepest condolences to your family. Ralph was a great friend of my Father Jim Lord. He will be missed but never forgotten for his friendship to our Family but also for his acts of courage in serving his community.

Mark Lord - December 29, 2017 at 07:15 AM

JM

“ Maribeth, Glen & Families: Sorry for your loss.

John & Cathie McHugh - November 08, 2017 at 08:43 AM

DF

“ Dear Mary Lou and family, I've just returned from out of town and read about your dear husband/father. What a man! What a life! He always had a smile and welcoming word, whether visiting our deli at Ct Sq years ago or the voting site. it was always a joy to be greeted by you both. Your many friends who are praying for you all are a big part of Ralph's legacy. Prayers of strength and comfort being sent your way . Love, Deb Flynn (Dave's wife) xo

Deborah Flynn - November 06, 2017 at 06:18 PM

MW

“ I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. Ralpf was such a nice person and will be greatly missed. My prayers go out to all of you.



Michael Wojtkowski - November 06, 2017 at 06:56 AM

GS

“ Remember working on his chimney when he found out I was a volly and my son has Internet to b a firefighter he took me out to his garage where he gave me a bear in gear for my son which is and will always b cherished by my son

Gary Sagendorph - November 05, 2017 at 05:09 PM

RS

“ I had the pleasure of working with Ralph when I conducted fire investigations for the State Police in the late 1970's and through the 980's . He was always eager to lend his valuable knowledge and experience to help determine the cause and origin of suspicious fires. He had a great sense of humor and a great work ethic. He was a proud father and husband and devoted his life to serving others. I will miss you Ralph - Bob Scott, MSP retired

Robert G. Scott - November 05, 2017 at 12:13 PM



“ 34 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - November 05, 2017 at 10:37 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Ralph A. Decker*.



November 05, 2017 at 09:48 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Ralph A. Decker*.



November 05, 2017 at 09:15 AM



“ *Rainbow Reflections Basket was purchased for the family of Ralph A. Decker.*



November 04, 2017 at 04:22 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss. My condolences to your family. I only have good memories and his great smile .He will be missed.*

William Swanson - November 04, 2017 at 04:13 PM



“ *To all the Decker family,
We are so sorry to hear about Ralph. What a great picture of him here with that big smile of his. He truly loved and lived life and it showed whenever you were in his presence.*



May fond memories sustain you in the days to come. Prayers for peace and comfort are being sent your way.

*Sincerely,
Mike and Becky Knox*

Mike and Becky Knox - November 04, 2017 at 02:24 PM

NC

“ My heart has cried a tear today reading about Ralph's passing. He was one of the people I looked forward to seeing on Saturday mornings, and getting a hug from him. After the meeting I would go to breakfast with Ralph and the Boys, that sat against the wall at South Con. Laughter was always on the menu at the Sat morning breakfasts. Ralph will be missed by many as he was loved by all. My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this sad time. Ralph is Walking in the Sunshine with the Spirit. Rest in Peace my friend, Rest in Peace.

Nancy Colvin - November 04, 2017 at 12:33 PM

MP

“ Marge Pravia lit a candle in memory of Ralph A. Decker



Marge Pravia - November 04, 2017 at 11:00 AM

MS

“ Our spirits were lifted every time Ralph came through the door at Rita Maries. May God lift the spirits of his loved ones during this difficult time.



Mark Sullivan - November 04, 2017 at 10:37 AM

LB

“ I am so sorry to hear of your Dads passing. May you all find comfort in ...The smile that is never forgotten...The stories shared time & time again..The love that is treasured forever.....Louise Barber

louise barber - November 04, 2017 at 08:23 AM

JS

“ *MaryLou, Donna, Glen, Juliann, Maribeth, Please know that you and your extended family are in my heart and prayer. I thought the world of him as I do you. Peace, Julie*

Julia Sullivan, ssj - November 03, 2017 at 09:12 PM

JW

“ *Ralph never failed to bring a smile to my face.. Rest well neighbor, rest well.*

Jeff Whitehouse - November 03, 2017 at 08:48 PM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Ralph A. Decker.*



November 03, 2017 at 06:00 PM

CN

“ *Lit a candle in memory of*



Carol Newberry - November 03, 2017 at 05:56 PM