



Mr. Ralph H. Ford

June 13, 1924 - March 3, 2023

Ralph Harrison Ford, 98, passed away peacefully on March 3, 2023 surrounded by family. He was born June 13, 1924, the son of Arthur and Lavinia (Mann).

He is predeceased by his wife of 70 years, Mary Helen Ford, as well as his sisters Ruth Ford and Myrtle Ford. He leaves his daughter and son in law, Susan and Thomas Moriarty of Sturbridge MA, and his granddaughters Shannon Moriarty of Wales, MA, and Kelsey Moriarty of Thompson, CT. He also leaves his sister-in-law, Gordine Galusha of Dalton, MA, as well as 3 generations of nieces and nephews.

Ralph was a 1942 graduate of Dalton High School, and a WWII Veteran. After graduation he enlisted in the United States Army Airforce and was a member of the 6th Bomb Group. He was stationed in Tinian Island and flew 35 missions as the Radio Operator on a B-29 bomber aircraft. In 1948 he married his high school sweetheart, Mary Helen Galusha (died February 2019). Ralph attended the University of Wisconsin on the GI Bill, where he studied cartography/geography and business, and from where he graduated in 1949.

Following graduation, he and Mary Helen returned to Dalton, MA, where he began working. He managed the hardware department at Sears & Roebuck where he made many lifelong friends. In 1958 he purchased Jones Variety

Store in West Springfield, MA and enjoyed his customers and community for many years.

In 1978 he and Mary Helen moved back to the Berkshires, settling into their summer home in Lenox, which he built in 1952.

Ralph had many interests such as tent camping and canoeing, which is how he and Mary Helen spent their honeymoon. He participated in the Westfield Whitewater Canoe Races for many years and canoed the Allagash River and St. John's River in Maine many times. Ralph also loved spending time in the woods and enjoyed everything that came with camping, including gathering wood with friends and cooking meals over the campfire. He also enjoyed flying his Piper Cub airplane. Ralph and Mary Helen sailed the intracoastal waterway from FL to CT and back several times. He was an avid reader and wintered in New Smyrna Beach, FL for many years. He enjoyed riding up and down the beach on his bicycle well into his 70's, and enjoyed cutting and splitting wood into his 90's. He had a passion for geography and he enjoyed teaching his daughter and granddaughters how to read maps and globes. Whenever they asked a question his favorite response was "Go look it up!" with a smile, as he also enjoyed teaching them the importance of how to use dictionaries and encyclopedias.

Ralph will be missed by the many loved ones he leaves, but their stories and memories of him will be cherished forever.

Family would like to thank Lee Healthcare at The Landing for the never-ending love and care both he and Mary Helen received for years.

Funeral Notice:

Funeral services for Mr. Ralph Harrison Ford will be Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 11 am at the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home in Dalton, 525 Main Street,

Dalton MA 01226. Burial with full military honors will follow at Main Street Cemetery. There will be an hour of visitation at the funeral home prior to the service from 10 am to 11 am. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to Solider On, 360 West Housatonic St, Pittsfield MA 01201.

Cemetery Details

Main Street Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Service
525 Main Street
Dalton, MA 01226
(413) 684-0215

Service

APR 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Dwyer -Wellington Family Funeral Home - Dalton
525 Main Street
Dalton, MA 01226
(413) 684-0215
info@dwyerfuneral.com
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall

TS

“ Sorry to hear about Ralph. He certainly led a fulfilled life. I used to enjoy stopping and speaking with him and sometimes Mrs. Ford when I was on patrol in Lenox. Always a gentleman with a great smile. They were a great couple. May he rest in peace with his wife.

*Tim Sheehan
Lenox Dale*

Tim Sheehan - April 08, 2023 at 04:29 PM

MD

“ Mary Pat Doyle sent a virtual gift in memory of Ralph Ford



Mary and Pat Doyle - April 08, 2023 at 02:24 PM

KS

“ To the Moriarty Family, we are so sorry to hear about your Dad/Grampa. We are thinking of all of you & sending our love. It sounds like, from his obituary, he lived a full life and was a great man. Treasure all the memories. Take care of yourselves.
Love, Norm, Kathleen, David, Sydney, & Matthew St.Denis

Kathleen St.Denis - April 07, 2023 at 03:19 AM



“ 45 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - April 06, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ Dear Sue,
Deepest sympathy and prayers on the passing of your dad Ralph.
Know you are in our thoughts
Deacon Richard and Donna Olson

Donna Olson - April 04, 2023 at 01:19 PM



“ Susan and family I am so sorry for your loss. Some of my fondest memories are of your parents in Plainfield and at Homecoming gatherings. I know you all have many more. Those will help you through this. Sending you love and hugs. Lori and Tony Talis

Lori Talis - April 04, 2023 at 07:22 AM