



## Mr. Ralph W. Lake

July 29, 1939 - October 28, 2020

Mr. Ralph W. Lake, 81, of Pittsfield, passed away at Berkshire Medical Center on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, after a brief and unexpected illness, with his loving family by his side. Born in Pittsfield, MA on July 29, 1939, the son of Harvey and Leola Adams Lake, he graduated from Pittsfield High School in 1957, winning the superlative "Class Clown"-- a title which he carried throughout his entire life. He later went on to earn his civil engineering certificate from Berkshire Community College.

Ralph enlisted in the United State Navy in 1957 and served on the U.S.S. *Lorraine* where he worked as a radio operator. Following his time in the Navy, he met the love of his life, Elizabeth Ann Harcum. They married on May 15, 1960, recently celebrating their 60th anniversary. After receiving an honorable discharge from the U.S Navy, Ralph worked for the City of Pittsfield as a Civil Engineer for 27 years. He later became Commissioner of Public Works, retiring from The City of Pittsfield in 1989.

In retirement, Ralph and his beloved "Lizzy" enjoyed their time together spending winter months vacationing with friends in Florida. During his time in Florida, he enjoyed golfing, fishing and being a member of "The Pacemakers," a musical 50's band where he sang and played keyboard. His passion, though, was spending time with family and friends and attending his grandchildren's many sporting events. Ralph never missed a game. In his earlier years, Ralph was an avid outdoorsman enjoying hunting and fishing. Ralph was a proud brother of the Mystic Masonic Lodge for 55 years, a

Member of The Pittsfield Elks Club, and a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Lenox.

Ralph will always be remembered as a kind, humble, loving father and friend. His funny sense of humor will be missed most by many.

Besides his wife, Ralph is survived by his three daughters, Deborah Gaylord (David) of Palm Beach Gardens, FL., Kimberly O'Brien (James), and Christine Milette (Justin) of Pittsfield. He leaves behind 8 Grandchildren, 3 Great Grandchildren and William Bonney, whom he always considered a son.

Ralph was predeceased by his parents and his brother Robert.

Funeral Notice:

A private funeral service for Mr. Ralph W. Lake will be held at the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home. At the family's request, there will be no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the St. Jude's Children Hospital in care of the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home, 220 East Street, Pittsfield MA 01201, in his memory. Donations CANNOT be made online, but may be made through the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home.

# Tribute Wall

JN

“ Dear Elizabeth and Family,  
I was 2 years ahead of Ralph at PHS but, we played on the same baseball team when I was 14 or 15. Always enjoyed his company or seeing him around the city after we both got out of the Navy. Please accept my condolences and prayers...  
Jack Navin (PHS'55)

---

**Jack Navin** - November 05, 2020 at 02:45 PM

BP

“ I was so sorry to hear about Ralph. He was a great guy. Many happy memories of camping adventures with you guys, Pat and Dave, and Tom and I, at the Battenkill. Fun times and great memories. My thoughts and prayers are with you Liz and your beautiful family. Love Bev Phillips

---

**Beverly Phillips** - November 04, 2020 at 06:57 PM

TC

“ Ralph was an outstanding man; got to know him for the last 19 years at rehab gym. Lots of fun and laughs. Rest in Peace my good friend- God Bless you!

---

**Tom Collins** - November 02, 2020 at 04:03 PM

LP

“ So sad to hear about Ralph. Have great memories about him. ❤️ Lou Parreault



---

**Lou Parreault** - November 01, 2020 at 12:02 PM

LJ

“ I am saddened to hear of Ralph’s passing. It was a pleasure to know him for so many years as a Cardiac Rehabilitation participant. He always had a witty comment to share to brighten my day, even if it was only 6:30 in the morning. It was an honor to be his nurse. God bless.

*Lisa Falsone-Jones, RN*

---

**Lisa Jones** - November 01, 2020 at 11:16 AM

EG

“ Our condolences to Liz and family. Ralph and I worked together for 8 yrs. and when the city decided to close engineering Ralph pushed me to take the fire dept. test, the greatest job ever, and I retired from there as a lieutenant 4 years ago. Ralph always kept it lively and fun, (“bubbles” poster in the vault), for Dan Hermanski and I in the office and taught us many things. We always looked forward to coffee break at the Highland. A good friend, mentor and all around great guy. Thanks for great memories and god bless the girls and their families. Elmer & Theresa Gage

---

**Elmer Gage** - November 01, 2020 at 10:49 AM

DT

“ Kim, Debbie, et al: Sorry to hear of Ralph's passing. Didn't know him very well, but enough to know he was a great guy. Dave Tyburski

---

**David Tyburski** - October 31, 2020 at 12:12 PM

MH

“ We will never forget you Ralph. You were our go to guy for so many projects. The memories are endless as were the laughs. Rest In Peace. Love

*Maureen and Ray Henault*

---

**maureen henault** - October 31, 2020 at 12:11 PM

KB

“ I had the great good fortune to work with Ralph at Transport the People. Where we spent many nights chatting as we waited for the guest to leave. In those situations Ralph was a wonderful companion, a masterful storyteller who could draw you into his stories the twinkle in his eye.  
I feel lucky to have know such a wonderful man  
ken

---

**ken boudreau** - October 31, 2020 at 11:37 AM

EG

“ Our condolences to Liz and family. I worked with Ralph for 8 years. Ralph was the friend that encouraged me to take the fire dept. exam when city choose to close engineering. I retired from there as a lieutenant. Dan Hermanski and I always looked forward to his jokes and coffee at Highland. God bless you all. We have nothing but fond memories.

---

**Elmer Gage** - October 31, 2020 at 08:58 AM

JL

“ Was so shocked to hear of Ralph's passing. Have loads of memories with both Ralph and Liz. Our condolences to the Lake family. May God bless you and keep you and grant you peace. Bob and Janie Lester

---

**janie lester** - October 31, 2020 at 08:05 AM

RM

“ I am cousins with Kimberly and Jimmy and I'm very sorry for your loss. May God help you in this sad time he's in God's hands and house thinking of you and sending hugs

---

**Renee Morrison** - October 30, 2020 at 08:50 PM