



Mr. Raymond "Ray" Laurin

September 5, 1936 - January 14, 2025

Mr. Raymond "Ray" Laurin, 88, formerly of Pittsfield, MA, passed away on Thursday, January 14, 2025, surrounded by his loving family in West Stockholm, NY where he was residing with his daughter, Cherie.

Ray was born on September 5, 1936 to the late Alfred and Aldora Hebert Laurin. He graduated from Miami Edison Senior High in 1955, and went on to receive reciprocating and jet engine training and his FAA Engine License from the Lindsey Hopkins Vocational School in Miami, FL.

Ray joined the United States Air Force Reserve in 1959 where he logged 7,500 flying hours primarily on C119, C124, C130B, C130E and C5A aircraft. He proudly served his country throughout many conflicts, including Operation Desert Storm. He retired after 34 years of service, as a Senior Master Sergeant in 1993. Even after retirement, Ray was proud to serve in the local VFW, American Legion, the Amvets, and the Knights of Columbus. For the majority of his career, Ray was employed by Pratt and Whitney as an aircraft engineering mechanic. He retired in December of 1998 after 35 years of dedicated service.

Among many things, Ray enjoyed fishing, reading, and spending time with his six grandchildren and six great grandchildren who lovingly referred to him as "Poppa."

Raymond married Beverly J. Wagstaff on August 1, 1964. They spent 35 years together before her passing in 1999. Ray was blessed with a second great love when he met Rita Jones, and felt fortunate to spend nearly 20 years together

Ray is survived by his children, Kenneth Laurin (Karen), Cherie Bisnett (Nate White), and Stephanie Voigt (Andy), his grandchildren Jessica (Joshua) Rose, Brittany (Travis) Frank, Daniel Laurin, Nicholas Bisnett, Nicholas and Melissa Sullivan, his great grandchildren, Masen, Cooper, Hallie, Myah, Noah and Lucie; all of whom he adored, and many nieces and nephews. Ray also leaves behind his sister-in-law, Patricia Leavenworth and his brother-in-law, James Wagstaff (Nancy).

Ray was predeceased by his wife, Beverly, his parents, his siblings Aurora Shaw-Cox, Albert Laurin, Annette Duprey, Margaret Lansburg, Florence Harper, Theresa Dayton, and Maurice Laurin, and his brother-in-law, Richard Leavenworth.

Funeral Notice:

Funeral services for Mr. Raymond "Ray" Laurin will be Tuesday, January 21, 2025, with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 2:30pm at St. Joseph's Church, celebrated by the Msgr. Michael A. Shershanvoich, Pastor. Burial with military honors will be at a later date.

Calling hours will be directly prior to the service, from 12 noon to 2 pm at the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North Street Pittsfield, MA 01201.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Ray's memory can be made to Hospice of St. Lawrence County, Potsdam, NY.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 21. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

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

Service

JAN 21. 2:30 PM (ET)

St. Joseph Church
414 North St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Tribute Wall

FP

“ I flew Many missions with Ray. A true gentleman and a great loadmaster. RIP my dear friend.

Fred Perret - March 05, 2025 at 08:26 AM

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“ Ray welcomed me into the squadron very early on my arrival. We got to know each other really well when we drove to a school in North Carolina for the C-130. Ray taught me respect of rank of all and good work ethics. When I was hired on full time I later learned that Ray had also been considered for the position and stepped aside because he “already had a full time career at P&WA. I never forgot what he did for me. We worked well together and enjoyed time off when it happened. I remember going to the Miraflores Locks at the Panama Canal watching the ships make passage and Ray made acquaintance with one of the lock operators who rode in his aircraft. This individual organized a trip on a ship that transited the canal from end to end.
Until we all get together for a future reunion, Rest in Peace, fond memories and good times!

CMSgt Thomas Dzwonkus (Retired) - January 18, 2025 at 09:06 PM