

Raymond Joseph Canuel

May 10, 1929 - May 17, 2021

Raymond Joseph Canuel, of Catharpin, Virginia passed away May 17, 2021 of natural causes surrounded by his family and loving fiancé Patricia Bradburn. Raymond (Ray) was the son of the late Albert and Aldea Canuel of Fall River, MA and was preceded in death by his loving wife of 50 years Marlene, siblings Alphonse Canuel, Norman Canuel, Charles Canuel, and Theresa Simon. Ray is survived by his brothers Donald Canuel and Roger Canuel, his fiancé Pat Bradburn, daughter Raelene Wagoner (Doug), son Raymond J. Canuel Jr (Stacy), grandchildren Lydia, Madeline, Cole, Austin, Sophia and great grandchild Zuri.

Ray was born May 10, 1929 in The Bronx of New York City, the 4th of 7 children. He would row boats for local fishermen in and around City Island for work. When Ray was twelve, he and his family moved to Fall River, MA. Partnering with his older brother Norman, he developed a fascination with cars and worked at a station developing skills to service them. Ray proudly served in the United States Army as a Sergeant in the Korean war supporting the armor forces spearheading the drive to China past the 38th parallel. Upon his return to Fall River, he befriended and joined two local men traveling to Washington, D.C for work and new opportunities. Ray fell in love with the Washington DC area. He worked as a mechanic for Logan Ford and enjoyed boating and water skiing on the Potomac river. He met his wife Marlene at Logan Ford, and they were married in 1959. They lived in Hunting Towers, before settling in a home off the GW parkway near Mount Vernon. Ray became an expert mechanic and took on the relatively new auto technologies of automatic transmissions and air conditioning. With a growing family, in 1969 Ray took his skills to work for the Federal Government as an HVAC engineer supporting GSA, the Government Printing Office, and finally the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Ray was a tireless provider who never took sick days, never turned down an opportunity for overtime, chose weekend shifts, leveraged night shifts and worked the paid holidays, calling them “triple time” pay. He also moonlighted installing central air conditioning for local northern Virginia residents for extra money. Ray loved taking the family in a camper to various beaches up and down the east coast and to Disney World. He also relaxed watching professional football, attending countless orchestra concerts or picking crabs. By 1989,

Ray and Marlene provided 100% of the education expenses needed for both their children to graduate from William & Mary and James Madison University.

On Christmas Eve 1991, Ray officially retired, but with the honed skills in HVAC, electrical, carpentry, welding, plumbing, masonry, and the ability to fix anything. No project was too big for Ray to tackle for himself, a neighbor or his children. The camper was sold, and they took many cruises to include the Caribbean and Norway.

After 50 years of marriage, he lost his first love of his life Marlene. He traveled up and down the east coast visiting friends, but soon found his second great love of his life Patricia (Pat) Bradburn in 2010. Ray expanded his skill set by caring for the beautiful land backing Bull Run. This included caring for horses, pond irrigation, fence maintenance, anything on his Gator, or his favorite wood chipper. More importantly, Ray gained the love and friendship of Pat's children Trina (Craig), James (Carol), Mark (Kara), Eric, and their children and grandchildren. Ray lived life to its fullest and was active, driving his car, performing drywall, electrical, and garage door spring repairs just days before his passing.

Services will be held at the Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA 20110 on Thursday, May 27th, with the Visitation at 3:00 PM and the Memorial Service at 4:00 PM. Ray will be laid to rest next to his late wife, Marlene, at Arlington National Cemetery in the future. Expressions of sympathy should take the form of donations to the Capital Caring Adler Center for Inpatient Care or the Loudoun Symphony.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 27. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Memorial Service

MAY 27. 4:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Tribute Wall

JG

“ We were fortunate enough to live across the street from Ray and Marlene for 17 years. After Marlene's death, we had the pleasure of meeting Pat. How did one man get so lucky! How did we get so lucky to have Ray as our neighbor! Ray was active in our dinner group and always had a great story about someone or something. Our condolences to the family, but please take comfort in knowing that his was a life well-lived. Sincerely, Paul and Julie Greenway

Julia Greenway - May 30, 2021 at 01:32 PM

CM

“ Ray and Pat threw the best gatherings and hosted for many years with other fellow widows and widowers . They are both so loving and great people. Love to all, Cindy Medvick



cynthia medvick - May 29, 2021 at 03:17 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Raymond Joseph Canuel.



May 27, 2021 at 10:45 AM

PD

“ Patricia, Brian and Jerry - Chatter Brook Drive purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Raymond Joseph Canuel.



Patricia, Brian and Jerry - Chatter Brook Drive - May 27, 2021 at 07:43 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond Joseph Canuel.



May 26, 2021 at 09:57 AM

TF

“ *The Cunigan Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Raymond Joseph Canuel.*



The Cunigan Family - May 26, 2021 at 09:29 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Raymond Joseph Canuel.*



May 25, 2021 at 04:41 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond Joseph Canuel.*



May 25, 2021 at 09:45 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Raymond Joseph Canuel.*



May 24, 2021 at 11:28 AM

CB

“ I didn't have the opportunity to spend a lot of time with Mr. Canuel, but even in the brief times I was around him, it was easy to know right away that he was smart, loyal, talented, and always giving of himself. It is clear from knowing his daughter, my dear friend, Raelene, that he was a man who took great pride in his family, in his work, and in everything he did. I understand that he could fix just about anything! I know he will be missed very dearly.

With sincerest condolences and prayers,

Charlene Bolos

Charlene Bolos - May 23, 2021 at 06:02 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Raymond Joseph Canuel.



May 23, 2021 at 12:56 PM

CF

“ A Great guy and a Wonderful neighbor. I could be in his company and think of him as a potential Uncle I never had. Ray embodied the epitome of Honesty and Integrity. His skills, talents and knowledge drew me in like a magnet. It was fun to talk to him in the world of "nuts-and-bolts" ! If it wasn't for the owner's manuals and Ray's FORD experience and tooling, I'm not sure I would have ever kept the Maverick on the road !

On the other side, a true family man, who characterized Compassion, Love and Support to anyone who needed it ! His visits to our house with Marlene by his side, or the visits to their's, were a gift to both our families. His tie to Bronx, New York and Arthur, my father, became the instant connection that created the foundation and neighbor association that stayed true for years. "I can still hear them both laughing" !

Ray, our hearts are heavy with your passing, but you'll remain in our thoughts with the positive impact you and Marlene shared in all our lives.

Take Care and Be Well to all the Canuel Family.

Much Love, Christopher B. Friedberg

CHRISTOPHER B. FRIEDBERG - May 23, 2021 at 09:32 AM

PG

“ We love you very much Mr. Canuel. You are such a Hero and Example to the Golders. You will always be such a powerful example to me personally -- just exactly the kind of Man, Father and Friend that I want to emulate, and aspire to be. Thank you for your Love, Thank you for your Strength, Thank you for your Humor. Thank you for your Kindness. God Bless you and your amazing family. We will all surely be together at many many Crab Feasts in the future. Love, Paul and the Golders

Paul Golder - May 21, 2021 at 02:16 PM

SK

“ Ray was such a great and fun person. We always chatted forever whenever we met up and Pat would should smile and he made us all laugh at something. He loved to fix anything and everything and Pat always told me and Ray what would be next. He will be missed by many and his smiles and fun chats will always be remembered.

Sarah Kelly - May 21, 2021 at 12:06 PM

MB

“ To Ray's Family some of whom we've met. All of whom we've heard about over the years. We are saddened to hear of Ray's passing. Ray was just a great guy. He joked at how special his friend Denny was to us and how he could never be that special at Denny's funeral services few years back and I think I jokelying hit him. Ray was just as special and just a hoot. The stories and the memories still make us laugh to this day. The date at the theatre has to be my favorite!!! That one made him blush. To see his pride and his huge smile when he talked about all of you!! How he loved his crabs!! I find myself knocking on his and Denny's table when I walk by it on Fridays now I will knock on both sides I'm sure my two favorites are together again!!! May you all find peace and comfort in the love your heart holds and memories you all share. What a beautiful life!!!
Love, Margaret & Sissie Buckler ~Sandgates Inn~

Margaret Buckler-Ford - May 19, 2021 at 10:49 PM

JN

“ We had a crab feast scheduled for Mt. Vernon Park and the truck showed-up at MVP to start cooking the crabs for over 100+ folks. Only one problem, the portable multi- burners would not fire up. I was going crazy with the vendor to get it fixed. No luck. Ray came by and said what's up? I explained the problem... he said no problem. He fixe it and started to cook the crabs. HE COULD FIX ANYTHING!! He saved the day, and we all drank free beer all night, and maybe the next day also. He was a good person and loved his family. Ray Jr is a chip off the old block. Joe Nedbal

Joe Nedbal - May 19, 2021 at 07:59 PM



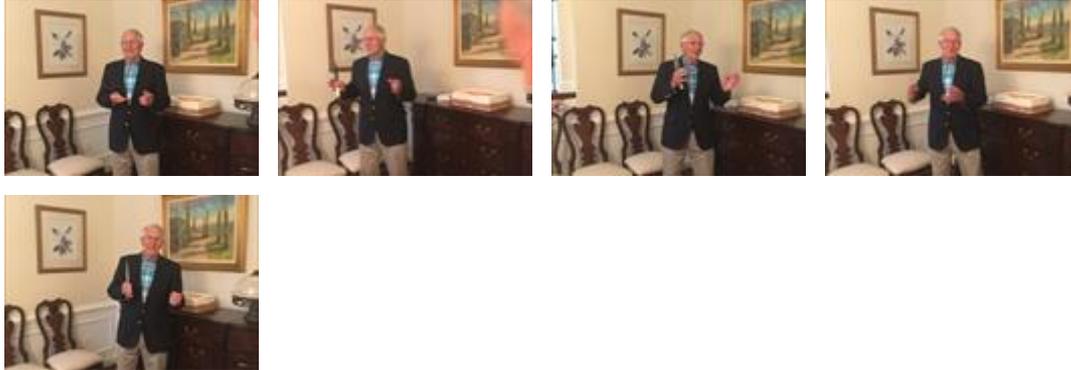
“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Raymond Joseph Canuel.*



May 19, 2021 at 02:39 PM

CM

“ *5 files added to the album Memories Album*



Carol Schutte and Stephen MacLeod - May 19, 2021 at 12:31 PM

BG

“ *Our hearts go out to all of Ray Canuel's family during this sad time. He was an extraordinary person and will be greatly missed! The Golders have so many wonderful memories visiting the Canuels and Wagoners, where he was charming, funny, intimately engaged, loving, and so, so kind. It was clear how deeply he loved his family and would do anything for them! Our kids have always held huge respect and affection for him. God bless you all. Love and prayers from the Golder family*



Barb and Paul Golder - May 19, 2021 at 10:07 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Raymond Joseph Canuel.*



May 19, 2021 at 09:47 AM