



## Edward John Spall

September 12, 1940 - February 21, 2018

Edward John Spall, 77, passed away peacefully at his home in Manassas VA surrounded by his loving family on Wednesday February 21, 2018. Born the eldest of seven children of Edward and Mary Spall of Carbondale PA, Ed graduated from the University of Detroit as an Electrical Engineer in 1963. He married the love of his life, Joann Arnese, the following year.

Ed enjoyed a 45-year career in engineering management with IBM, Loral, Lockheed, and the Ovonyx Corporation. He was blessed with rewarding work and supportive co-workers. Among other military and space programs, he worked on the Titan ICBM, F-15 Fighter computer, and the Space Shuttle. He also managed the development of radiation-hardened computer and memory chips supporting NASA interplanetary missions like the Mars Rover program and developed patents for new non-volatile computer memory technology.

Ed served our local homeless over a period of 20 years as a founding board member and board president of BARN Community Housing. Ed was a shining example of how one man can make a powerful difference in the lives of so many.

Ed is survived by his wife of 54 years, Joann, and their five children: Susan (Doug) Ferguson of Salem VA, Edward (Jill) Spall of Manassas VA, John (Wanda) Spall of San Ramon CA, Laurie (John) Vena of Arlington VA, and

Richard (Michelle) Spall of Plano TX. He is also survived by his fourteen grandchildren: Daniel, Kelly, and Brad Ferguson; Anna, Jack, and Lucas Spall; Shawn and Annie Tsai, Colin and Toby Spall; Anthony and Allegra Vena; Donovan and Elena Spall. Ed is also survived by his two brothers: Leonard Spall of Colorado Springs CO, Joseph Spall of Carbondale PA, and his three sisters; MaryAnn Mikulak of Phoenix AZ, Sally Kutchmanich of Carbondale PA, and Ruth Bianco of Carbondale PA. Ed was preceded in death by his Parents and brother James, also of Carbondale PA. In addition, Ed is survived by many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the BARN Community Housing, Bristow VA, the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, and the International Myeloma Foundation.

Visitation will be held at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas VA, on Thursday March 1st from 2 to 4 pm and 6 to 8 pm.

A remembrance mass will be held at All Saints Catholic Church, 9300 Stonewall Rd, Manassas VA, on Friday March 2nd at 1:30 pm.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 1. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home  
9609 Center St.  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 257-6028  
pfh@piercefh.com  
<https://www.piercefh.com>

## Visitation

MAR 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home  
9609 Center St.  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 257-6028  
pfh@piercefh.com  
<https://www.piercefh.com>

## Memorial Mass

MAR 2. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

All Saints Catholic Church  
9300 Stonewall Rd  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 368-4500

# Tribute Wall

TG

“ Dear Joan and family,

*we are so sad to hear from Ed`s passing. This was exactly 6 years after my father passed away (21.02.2012) during a holiday in Switzerland. We are sure they will meet in heaven and talk about the good old times, camping-trips and airplanes.*

*We remember Ed as a wonderful friend, a beloved father and loving husband. It was a great honour knowing him. We will always keep him in good memory.*

*God bless you and may he give you the strength to cope with this great loss.*

*We send you a big hug and lots of good thoughts from Bavaria, Germany.*

*Claudia, Armin, Kevin & Ingrid*

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**The Pilats from Germany** - March 03, 2018 at 08:34 AM



DP

“ Ed was a GREAT EXECUTIVE, a GREAT NEIGHBOR and above all A GREAT PERSON,

*Dinu Patel*

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**Dinu Patel** - March 01, 2018 at 08:38 PM

MJ

“ *Joann and Family,  
Ed was a fellow Kiwanian, who spent a lot of his spare time volunteering for community service projects. My children often participated in the projects and now fondly recall my friend, Ed. As one of my biggest source of moral support when I joined the KIWANIS Club Of Manassas, Ed helped me weather the storms. He was always there for me as I rose through the ranks to become the Club's first female president. Ed introduced me to the Benedictine Sisters and the BARN. As you may recall, Ed reached out to George and me when we entered the next stage of our lives as grandparents. He invited us to your home to learn from the pros. Speaking of George, Ed was George's senior manager at IBM for the VLSI line. We will miss him, and pray that his memory be a blessing.*

Michele Jung - February 28, 2018 at 10:16 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Edward John Spall.*



February 28, 2018 at 10:13 PM



“ *1 file added to the album A Story of a Lifetime*



Pierce Funeral Home - February 28, 2018 at 03:11 PM

“ Dear Joann & all,

*We knew this day was coming, but we kept wishing it away. If we could have written the script for you and Ed, we would have written a different ending . . . one where you and Ed live to a ripe old age of 100+, enjoying more family times, more travels together, and the best of health. We wished it with all our might, but, sadly, we couldn't make it happen. We are deeply sorry Ed has left our earth. We are truly sorry for your loss. Ed was a “big” man, and he leaves a big hole in our hearts that can only be filled with our endearing memories of him.*

*We wanted to visit you and Ed back in November, but with the holidays and possible wintry weather that didn't happen. The next thing we knew, young Ed called to tell us things were not going well for his dad. We quickly made a plan to visit. I began to reflect on the many good times we shared, as I went through some of our photos to bring along. Oh, there were so many fun things we did together. Over the years we have shared church, holidays, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and vacations. To think that Ed isn't going to be there now, makes us realize how very much we will miss him. We will always remember Ed as always ready for adventure . . . taking a bi-plane ride over Myrtle Beach, sharply turning a wave-runner where he dumped himself and lost his sunglasses, amusing a naïve waitress as the Frenchman, Jacques Strapp, arriving as the Porcelain Prince for a London Broil, or spending a whole day talking with his Irish brogue and telling stories of Duffy's tavern.*

*One of our special memories is of the day Ed took us downtown Detroit to see Paul's old house, church and school, and then out to Belle Isle, through the aquarium and flower house of our youth. Our relatives were incredulous that anyone would go to such a “risky” place. Ed was fearless. Paul is also grateful to Ed for taking us to see Stephanie Trick, the stride piano player. We would never have gotten there on our own, and it was a big thrill for Paul, and Ed knew it.*

*“Life of the Party” was one of Ed's super powers. He could make an ordinary day or evening into a party, and he made any party more animated by just being there . . . with his sense of humor, his*

*creativity, his playfulness, and “no sense of sin”. Ed’s hearty laugh was contagious. We will miss that laugh, but it will ring in our memories when we recall some of Ed’s escapades. Remember the video coverage of the Bunny Kidnapping?*

*We know how near and dear The Barn was to Ed, and we sent a gift in his name so his good works can continue. Peace & Blessings,  
Paul & Barb Fisher*

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**Paul & Barbara Fisher** - February 28, 2018 at 02:46 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Edward John Spall.*



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February 27, 2018 at 10:50 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edward John Spall.*



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February 26, 2018 at 07:34 AM



“ *Ed and family,*

*I'm so sorry to hear of your father's passing. I will be keeping all of you close to my heart during this sad and difficult time.*

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**Dale (Potts) Jepson** - February 26, 2018 at 06:41 AM

RT

“ *Richard and Melissa Tatem purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Edward John Spall.*



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**Richard and Melissa Tatem** - February 25, 2018 at 04:52 PM

CS

“ *Ed, you always had such great love for and pride in your beloved wife, Joann, your, children, your grandchildren, and all your family and friends. You were a good man with a huge heart, and I will miss you, your great stories, and your warm personality. Thank you for all your kindness to me and my family while you were in our lives. - Carl Schell, Ovonyx, Michigan.*

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**Carl Schell** - February 24, 2018 at 08:59 PM

CM

“ *Carl & Bata Schell and family - Michigan purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Edward John Spall.*



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**Carl & Bata Schell and family - Michigan** - February 24, 2018 at 08:54 PM

CH

“ *God rest Ed's soul. My backdoor neighbor for almost twenty years. Politically we agreed not to speak, but otherwise Ed was a pretty good man to know. We shared a love for the original Mustang. May he rest in peace. My condolences to Joann and their extended family.*

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**chuck Holderness** - February 24, 2018 at 06:24 PM

JT

“ Jim and Pat Tatem purchased the Fruit Abounds for the family of Edward John Spall.



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**Jim and Pat Tatem** - February 24, 2018 at 03:58 PM

PT

“ What a privilege it has been to know Ed and call him friend. Ed and Joann were godparents for our son Richard. Jim and Ed met at University of Detroit and then began their careers at IBM in Owego, NY. We were young just starting out in married life with a growing family, we had 8 kids between us. What wonderful memories we have of our time together. Through all the changes that life brings we stayed in touch. So dear a friend is a treasure forever. God bless you my friend.  
Jim Tatem and Pat

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**pat Tatem** - February 24, 2018 at 03:38 PM

MH

“ I feel very lucky to have known Ed and Joann. They were an integral part of my husband's life and became precious to me after Doug and I married. We shared wonderful times with them in our visits to their lovely home. Ed was so generous in taking us see the sights of D.C., and when we returned from sightseeing Joann fed us delicious meals. We sat around the table laughing, and drinking \$2 Chuck red wine while Ed regaled us with stories and his wit. The priest who presided at Doug's funeral described him as a man whose spirit was as gentle as his faith was strong. This depiction of Doing is how I will always remember our Ed also.



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**Mary Jenkins Hoffman** - February 24, 2018 at 02:21 PM