



Ralph McNelis

November 20, 1947 - August 2, 2008

RALPH LOUIS MCNELIS, of Manassas, Virginia, died Saturday, August 2, 2008 in his home surrounded by Family & Friends.

Ralph, aka 'Sonny', was born in Washington, D.C. on November 20, 1947. During his formative years, Sonny enjoyed catching Rockfish on the Chesapeake Bay and exploring the Appalachian Trail as an Eagle Scout. Soon after graduating from Randolph Macon Academy, Sonny volunteered to defend his country in the United States Navy, serving 3 Tours of Duty on the USS St. Paul during the Vietnam War. After departing from the Navy, he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business from The University of Maryland. In 1976, Sonny and Patricia 'Trish' Waskom eloped in Williamsburg, VA. For the remainder of his life, Sonny and Trish were committed to raising their three children and one grandchild. In the early 1990's, Ralph became a Senior Loan Officer and began his mission: To help people purchase affordable homes and make sound financial decisions. Sonny was involved with his Clients and Friends until the day he died. He will be dearly missed by all.

He was preceded in death by his Mother, Jean Eleanor Strohecker McNelis.

He is survived by his Loving wife, Patricia Eileen McNelis; three children, James Michael McNelis, Daniel Patrick McNelis, Michelle Eileen McNelis, and one granddaughter, Kerry Eileen McNelis, all of Manassas, Virginia; his father,

James Ralph McNelis of Solomons, Maryland; three sisters, Lee Ann Woodcock, of Springfield, Virginia, Judy Louise Szyzborski and Christine Marie McNelis both of Solomons, Maryland; and his mother-in-law, Josephine Waskom, of Manassas, Virginia.

The family will receive Friends from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 5, 2008 at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas. A prayer service will be held 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 6, 2008 at All Saints Catholic Church, 9300 Stonewall Road, Manassas. Interment will follow at Washington National Cemetery, Suitland, Maryland.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 6 Herndon Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21403.

Condolences may be sent to www.piercefh.com.

Sonny the Fisherman

Sonny Thought Every Day Was a New Day to Catch The Big One.

No particular fishing spot is required, and actually no particular type of fish have to swim at the spot chosen for that day. It's Not About the amount of Fish, Just About the Art and The Possibilities.

Pole. Reel. Enough Line for the Cast. Worms or Jig or Bucktail or Plug? Any Sort of Hook for the Event. Hat, Smokes and a Selection of Beers and Colorful Sodas. Maybe a Sandwich and Even Some Fig Newtons.

Size up the Water and The Shoreline, Disregard the Weather. Consider the Possibilities and Eye the First Cast Location.

Think Positive and Cast the First Cast.

Nothing.

Nothing Still.

Crack Open a Beer at 8AM.

Nibble.

Hold Your Mouth Right, Nibble.

Hit.

Nothing.

Wish It So, Cuss a Little, Watch The Water.

Hit!

Hit!

Hit!

Set The Hook, Keep Tension on The Line.

Imagine What Type of Fish Took Your Bait.

Guess?Based Upon How the Fish took the Bait.

Stay Focused on The Art and The Possibilities.

See The First Glimpse of the Fish and Focus on the Arrival.

Scoop or Pull to Shore.

It's a Big One, Sonny Says.

Every Day is a New Day to Catch The Big One.

The Surging Stock.

The Big Payoff at the Craps Table.

The Jumbo Loan.

The Biggest Rockfish.

The Biggest Punch Line.

Every Day Will Be a Great Day to Catch the Big One.

Happy Fishing, Sonny.

Tribute Wall

CV

“ I will miss Sonny so much. I loved talking with him. I am thankful of the gifts that he gave Mike because I know that they will be passed on to our children. Sonny's legacy will live on in his own family and in many others. I am sorry that I couldn't make the funeral but I look forward to seeing you all very soon. We can sit on the front porch, have a beer and remember him.

Cory Vanderpool - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

CC

“ There is not enough room here to say what I really want to say about Sonny. Trish, keep an eye out for my e-mail.

Chris Cialone - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

GS

“ My deepest condolences...

*All my best,
Gail Siegel*

Gail Siegel - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

TA

“ I just learned of the going home of Ralph. I was his loan processor for several years. We had great times and he was always so sweet to me! He spoke about his family at work all the time!

May God be with you,

Love,

Talicia Ashford

Talicia Ashford - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

KM

“ Trish and Family,

My family wishes you the deepest condolences in the passing of our friend, Ralph. Although we were really joined together by business, I always felt that Ralph and I had been friends for many years. He always made me feel welcome in his life and we spent many business telephone calls talking more about personal issues than business. Ralph has made a big impact on my life in the very short amount of time we were friends.

You and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers. Ralph will always be a true professional, great businessman and a real gentleman that many others will never be - A true friend that is greatly missed in this world.

Kevin Morin - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

MI

“ I miss you, Dad.

Michelle - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

NH

“ To Sonny's family,
I, along with my family, have known Sonny since he was in 9th grade. My Dad didn't care for a lot of people, but he took to Sonny right away.
Sonny had a quick wit and always had a comeback for Dad when Dad kidded him. He was a great guy!

Nancy Hoskins - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

CS

“ I Love you Sonny. May you rest in peace and go with the Angels. I am glad I had the opportunity to meet you!

Christine Shepherd - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

JM

“ Dear Trish and family.

Our thoughts and prayers will be with you now and the days ahead.
Jim and Audrey

Jim and Audrey Maddas - August 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Mohagida, Bud. Always!!!

Steve Briers - August 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM