



## Ralph Cedric Saunders

July 9, 1957 - August 23, 2024

Ralph Saunders, age 67, died unexpectedly on August 23, 2024. He was a beloved life partner, father, and friend who will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Ralph was born on July 9, 1957 in San Francisco, California and moved at the age of seven to Arlington, Virginia. He graduated Washington Liberty High School (formerly Washington Lee) in 1975 with many lifelong friends. He received a double BS degree in Finance and Management at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia in 1980 and was a member of the Beta Xi Chapter of the AKPsi fraternity.

Upon graduation he started his IT career at EDS. He left EDS to start his own company, Keystone Software, in 1990, and worked as a software engineer, architect, and consultant at various companies throughout his life. He was known for his customer skills, dedication to a mission, and ability to establish long-term relationships with colleagues.

But more than anything, Ralph was a devoted family man and friend. He loved spending time with people, and never failed to make friends wherever he went, including many fur-friends. He was always available to offer support, guidance, and encouragement no matter what challenges were faced. He called Stonecoal Lake, WV his second home for the last 16 years, and

encouraged all to visit and experience its tranquility.

In his free time, Ralph enjoyed photography - he was the first to volunteer to take pictures at any and all family events, brewing - but never root beer, and grilling and smoking all the meats. For a period in his life he loved riding his Harley Heritage Softail Classic on his own, with a couple buddies, and with thousands of people during Memorial Day celebrations - Rolling Thunder (now Rolling To Remember). He had a love of international cuisine, especially Thai food. He also enjoyed playing poker with his friends at least one Friday a month. During the Covid pandemic, he developed quite the green thumb and enjoyed sharing the bounty of his hard work with others. He was an avid marble collector and was recently taking classes in flamework so he could make his own.

Ralph is survived by his partner, Diana O'Hara; children, Justin Duliba, Meghan O'Hara (JR Smith), and Erin O'Hara; grandchildren, Aidan Kanakry (Erika), Julian Duliba, Collin Rogers, and Jude Duliba; great grandchildren, Sterling and Aurora Kanakry; sister, Livia Griffith (Jim); and nieces and nephew, Krista Daugherty, Mackenzie Griffith, and Michael Griffith. He is preceded in death by his parents, Ingrid Holst Saunders and Paul Saunders; and his daughter, Kelly O'Hara. His memory will be cherished by all who knew him.

A Celebration of Life will be held for family and friends on Friday, August 30, 2024, at 2:00 PM at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center St., Manassas, VA 20110.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the ASPCA in his name.

Link to ASPCA donation page:

<https://secure.aspca.org/donate/memorial>



# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

AUG 30. 2:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pierce Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Ralph Cedric Saunders*



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**Pierce Funeral Home** - August 26, 2024 at 04:18 PM

DO

“ *1 file added to the album recent*



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**Diana O'Hara** - August 23, 2025 at 01:45 PM



“ *On the passing of our beloved neighbor, Ralph. We thought we would have a long time to get to know each other more but you left suddenly without me saying goodbye. Your big smile and neighborliness remain deeply in our memory.*

*Farewell to our friend and rest in peace.*

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**Chris Kim** - September 16, 2024 at 01:43 PM

SM

“ 1 file added to the album recent



Steve Monroe - September 08, 2024 at 03:22 PM

DO

*Thank you for sharing Steve.*

Diana O'Hara - September 11, 2024 at 03:20 PM

DO

“ 1 file added to the album recent



Diana O'Hara - August 31, 2024 at 04:15 PM

LS

“ *My condolences to the family and to Diane. Ralph was such a kind and gentle soul. I remember him building a giant Lego and impressing my daughter and all the children around. He will be missed by those who knew him.*

Lindsey Seidman - August 30, 2024 at 09:46 PM

BD

“ I first met Ralph working on a government contract in the '80's. I was always impressed with his ability to get along with anyone even when they vexed him. Ralph had a wicked sense of humor too. I was always amazed at how Ralph had so many hobbies and passions. He lived life to the fullest. This picture is from one of our parties where of course Ralph provided the beer he brewed himself. We'll miss you Ralph and hope to meet up with you again in the next life.



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**Betsy Dunphy** - August 30, 2024 at 08:09 PM

NS

“ On or off the board, you made a big splash, old friend.

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**Nick Seidenman** - August 30, 2024 at 03:29 PM

RB

“ Uncle Ralph was a patient, gentle and kind man whom I enjoyed visiting with. He will be greatly missed by me and my husband at our family get togethers. Sending love and prayers to Aunt Diana, their children and grandchildren.

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**Rhonda C Bassignani** - August 30, 2024 at 08:10 AM

DD

“ Debbie Dowling planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ralph Cedric Saunders.

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**Debbie Dowling** - August 29, 2024 at 07:35 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ralph Cedric Saunders.*



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August 29, 2024 at 07:35 PM



“ *Alicia K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ralph Cedric Saunders.*

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**Alicia K.** - August 29, 2024 at 06:49 PM



“ *Uncle Ralph will truly be missed. I will always cherish the last time we were together. He took the most beautiful pictures at our wedding and the day after spent the day with us just hanging out. I am going to miss Uncle Ralph and I wish I could be there for my Aunt Diana and all my family tomorrow for the services. I will be thinking of you all and sending all my love.*

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**Shaina Walsh** - August 29, 2024 at 05:02 PM



“ *Ralph was one of the kindest and gentlest souls. If you wanted someone to be holding the rope for you while you were hanging from a cliff Cedric would be the one. So hardworking and smart. I will miss him so much. I know he did not believe in God but he knows better now. Until we meet again Cedric!*

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**bobp** - August 29, 2024 at 03:26 PM

SG

“ *Ralph was one of the kindest people iv ever met. You will be missed.*

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**Sean Geiger** - August 28, 2024 at 12:49 PM

TC

“ *Ralph was my uncle as long as I can remember. He was always such a calm and welcoming energy to be around and had a great sense of humor. I'm so fortunate I got to be influenced by him and I'll cherish those characteristics always. Sending love to Aunt Diana, my cousins, and my extended family today and always.*

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**Tee Corley** - August 27, 2024 at 03:34 PM

CC

“ *Ralph was our brother (in-law) and we loved him dearly. We shared so many wonderful times with him and my sister Diana. We were always welcomed in their homes, and fed way too well! We enjoyed many a story of family, work, politics, arts and crafts, and travel. He will be missed beyond measure. Ralph was loved by us!*

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**Candy and Bill Corley** - August 27, 2024 at 02:25 PM

AM

“ *My condolences to the family. May you find peace in the upcoming days and treasure your memories. Ralph was a good soul. He will be greatly missed. My heart is with your heart.*

*With sympathy,*

*Audrey Turner McLendon  
AKPsi*

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**Audrey McLendon** - August 26, 2024 at 09:52 PM

PZ

*Ralph's life was marked by his easygoing warmth and genuine, spontaneous kindness. We felt lucky to know his exceptional parents, then Ralph, and then two dear cats he gave his father and whom we later adopted and loved. Ralph's paternal grandmother, whom he never met, radiated kindness, generosity, and tolerance as she faced death at the hands of the Nazis. Ralph carried this heritage forth with exceptional grace. We will miss him deeply and cherish his memory.*  
*Patricia Annez and Roberto Zagha*

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**Patricia Clarke Annez and Roberto Zagha** - August 27, 2024 at 04:14 AM

DG

*I met Ralph when I started working in the DC area in the 80s and was invited to join the Geeks, an informal group of IT consultants.*

*We have stayed in touch all these years, even after I moved first to Boston, MA, and then to Santa Monica, CA.*

*Ralph was a fun guy, decent in every respect. I cherished our friendship, and am very sad at his passing.*

*Rest in peace, Ralph.*

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**dan gielan** - August 28, 2024 at 11:29 PM

TB

*Ralph has been a wonderful friend throughout the years since we met on a certain software project in 1990. Nobody could ask for a better friend -- smart, indignant about the things that we should be indignant about, empathetic with the struggles of others. We need more people like Ralph in the world. Deepest condolences to Diana and the family upon his loss.*

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**Tom Bragg** - August 30, 2024 at 01:57 PM

BB

“ *His poker buddies. I'm going to miss him.* ”



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**Bruce Barber** - August 26, 2024 at 06:31 PM

EO

*Thank you for sharing this photo.*

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**Erin O'Hara** - August 27, 2024 at 08:59 PM