



## COL (Ret) Raymond Livingston Stearns

January 9, 1936 - January 21, 2021

COL (Ret), Raymond L. Stearns, 85, of Gainesville, VA, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family Thursday, January 21, 2021.

Ray was born January 9, 1936, in Baltimore, MD, and grew up in Owings Mills, MD. He attended McDonogh Military Academy from seventh grade through High School, where he was the Corp commander, class president and later inducted into the McDonogh Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Virginia (CLAS '59) where he was an active member of the community. He earned All-America honors on Virginia's Men's Lacrosse Team. Additionally, he was a member of the IMP Society, T.I.L.K.A. Society, and a Brother of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. He was commissioned at graduation as a Second Lieutenant into the United States Army in 1959.

Ray served 30 years in the military in both wartime and peacetime. His tours included Vietnam, Europe, and the United States. While serving on his first tour in Germany he met Gudrun Renate "Maxi" Albinus. Their 32-year marriage began on June 22, 1963. They had two sons, John David Stearns and Christopher Livingston Stearns. During his service, he earned a Masters of Business Administration at Babson College in Massachusetts, completed Command and General Staff College, and Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Ray was well known for his leadership and his contributions to

soldiers and units in the Army.

For his heroism and actions without regard, Ray was awarded over his career; the Defense Superior Service Medal; Legion of Merit with Second Oak Leaf Cluster; Soldiers Medal; Bronze Star with third Oak Leaf Cluster; Meritorious Service Medal; Air Medal; Army Commendation Medal; Meritorious Unit Commendation; National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal (5 service stars); Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon (4); Vietnam Campaign Medal w/60 Device; Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation; Parachutist Badge; Army Staff Identification Badge; Armed Forces Honor Medal; and the Overseas Service Bar (4).

Ray retired from his distinguished military career in 1989 and began a second career at The National Industries for the Blind, creating numerous job opportunities for blind Americans while supporting the Warfighter.

On May 17, 1997, Ray married Amelia Grace “Dolly” Stearns. Ray and Dolly were devout members of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Gainesville, VA. Through their 24-year marriage, Ray and Dolly committed their time to family, leisure, and travel. They enjoyed cruises around the globe with family and friends. Ray was a loving and dedicated father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. As a proud Alumnus of the University of Virginia, Ray remained an active Wahoo throughout his life. He avidly attended University of Virginia Football games and Women’s Soccer matches while his son Chris and granddaughter Morgan competed for the Hoos, respectively.

Ray is survived by his wife Amelia Grace ‘Dolly’ Stearns of Gainesville, VA; son John D. Stearns of Leesburg, VA; son Christopher L. Stearns of Fort Collins, CO, his wife Laurel and their four children Morgan, Amber, Luke, and John. Ray is also survived by Dolly’s four children and their spouses Michael and Jan Cannon, Frank and Rebecca Cannon, Elaine and Ned Preston, and

Cathleen and Jerry Bigelow; 9 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. He is predeceased by his parents, Ena and Raymond O. Stearns, sister Sue Marie Stearns, and former wife Gudrun Renate Stearns.

There will be a memorial mass in honor of Col. Stearns' life on Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 11:00 AM at Holly Trinity Catholic Church located at 8213 Linton Hall Rd Gainesville, VA, 20155. A funeral mass will be held at Ft. Myer Old Post Chapel and interment, with full military honors, at Arlington National Cemetery on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 10:45 AM.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105 <https://www.stjude.org/> or The Parkinson Foundation of the National Capital Area, 8830 Cameron St. #201 Silver Spring, MD 20910 <https://parkinsonfoundation.org/>

# Previous Events

## Memorial Mass

FEB **6**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

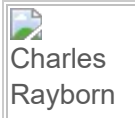
Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
8213 Linton Hall Road  
Gainesville, VA 20155  
<http://holytrinityparish.net/>

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUL **21**. 10:45 AM - 11:15 AM (ET)

Ft. Myer Old Post Chapel  
Arlington, VA

# Tribute Wall



Charles  
Rayborn

“ He was my boss in Germany. Fair and honest. Pulled no strings.  
Great Man.

Charles Rayborn - July 27, 2023 at 02:31 PM

AP

“ Dolly and Ray were fond of me as I regularly  
cared for Ray before he passed. I will forever  
treasure their affection and memories, and  
wish everyone love, peace and comfort.



Adelina Pubill - December 22, 2022 at 10:35 AM

MS

“ Dear Dolly, John, Chris and Laurel,  
I heard of Ray's passing from my brother, Michael.  
He was such a gentle, lovely man. I have such fond memories of  
when you would come to visit in Anderson, IN.  
I remember he would always greet my father with "Hello, Cuz".  
The last time I saw Ray was at Irene's funeral, before that, we were  
all together for the Stearns reunion in Baltimore, hosted by Bill and  
Irene.  
Such a wonderful family.  
I looked through the photos, and could see Ray and Maxi in the  
grandchildren.  
I wish you much peace and love.  
Elizabeth Rossin Sizer

Mary Elizabeth Rossin Sizer - February 04, 2021 at 09:35 PM

BS

“ I was a Captain in the Army serving under Col Stearns in Germany in 1985. My parents visited and I remember him telling my Dad that one day his son will be a General. I laughed and smiled while my Dad beamed with pride. Seventeen years later I was promoted to Brigadier General. I never forgot that day in 1985. God bless you Sir.

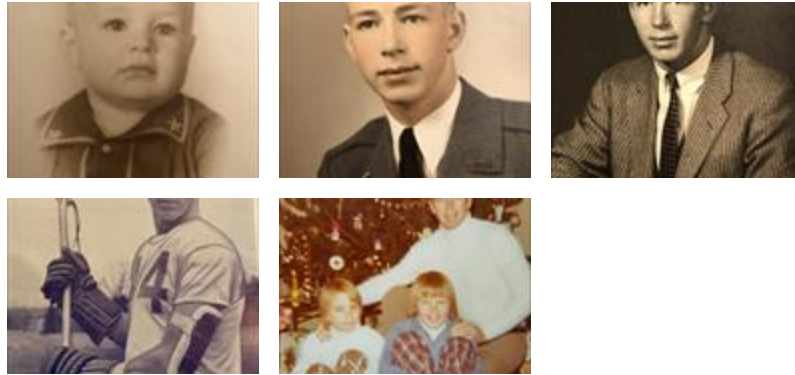
*BG(Ret) Mark Scheid*

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**BG (Ret) Mark Scheid** - February 03, 2021 at 09:41 PM

JS

“ 32 files added to the album Ray Stearns



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**John Stearns** - February 01, 2021 at 12:53 PM

AS

*Dear John, Chris, Laurel, Morgan, Amber, Luke, and John,*

*I was so sorry to hear of Ray's passing. He was such a fine man, a distinguished man, and a man who was a pleasure to know. I am so glad that I got to know all of you through Jeff, and our interactions over the many years. I know that all of you will miss Ray, and my heart is with all of you.*

*Love,*

*Ann Trichilo Stobaugh*

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**Ann Trichilo Stobaugh** - February 02, 2021 at 03:36 PM



Kathryn  
Blankens

*Dear Dolly,*

*I am so glad that I saw this today. I did not know Ray had passed away and regret so much not being able to pay my respects to the two of you! You know how much I admire both of you. I am so glad you had such a wonderful man to heal your heart and spend the last 24 Years with! Praying for the peace and comfort of our Savior to surround sustain you in the days ahead! Fondly,  
Kathryn Blankenship*

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**Kathryn Blankenship** - February 10, 2021 at 03:40 PM

AS

“ *Dolly,  
What an amazing person Ray was! He leaves behind so many incredible legacies!! His gentle kindness will always be remembered by us! Heaven just received another angel for sure.  
L:ove and hugs,  
Butch and Maureen*

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**ANTHONY STEA** - January 30, 2021 at 01:02 PM

CA

“ *Dear Dolly and family. I'm so sorry to hear of Ray's passing. I'll miss seeing him at family events. He was very welcoming and personable and made me feel very comfortable. Truly a gentleman!  
May he rest in God's peace.  
Carole Weiland*

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**Carole** - January 29, 2021 at 03:15 PM

AP

“ *Adelina P. lit a candle in memory of COL (Ret)  
Raymond Livingston Stearns*



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**Adelina P.** - January 29, 2021 at 01:51 PM

AP

*My prayers and condolences for all loved ones.*

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**Adelina P.** - January 29, 2021 at 01:52 PM

V(

*R.I.P. Virginia Lacrosse Brother ... Godspeed*

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**Virginia Lacrosse Alumni Network (VLAN)** - February 26, 2021 at 12:45 PM

CV

“ *I feel blessed and honored to have met and known Ray the last several years. He was not only a distinguished Ameircan patriot, but a kind, loving husband and family man. I will dearly miss our encounters and conversations - especially his wit and sense of humor. God bless Ray, Dolly and his entire family. My deepest sympathy and may rest in peace with God. Carlos Viera and team at FPP Wealth Advisors.*

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**Carlos Viera** - January 29, 2021 at 11:17 AM

PR

“ For over 25 years we were blessed to have Ray as a much loved and respected member of our extended family. He was an all-American patriot and hero in every aspect. He achieved great things with his humble unassuming attitude. He put his family and country first making us all better people. He was a caring husband, a devoted father, and a loving granddad. He gave us all an example of a life well lived and a wonderful family legacy left behind. Thank you for being a treasured part of our lives. May the angels guide to peacefully to your Heavenly reward. Pat and Greg Reinhart

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pat reinhart - January 29, 2021 at 09:37 AM

CH

“ Aunt Dolly, I am so sorry to hear about Ray. He was always very warm and welcoming. I had no idea of the extent of his service in the military and his involvement with so many organizations. He left a lasting impression on so many lives! I am thankful for his service. I will always remember sharing Thanksgiving with both of you and our extended families. Love, Christine

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Christine Hill - January 28, 2021 at 08:51 PM

LK

“ Lois Koch lit a candle in memory of COL (Ret) Raymond Livingston Stearns



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Lois Koch - January 28, 2021 at 08:04 PM

CB

“ *A true gentleman and man of honor. We love you and will miss you greatly.*

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**Cathleen Bigelow** - January 28, 2021 at 03:43 PM

LH

“ *Linda Harper lit a candle in memory of COL  
(Ret) Raymond Livingston Stearns*



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**Linda Harper** - January 28, 2021 at 02:21 PM

DG

“ *Thank you for the great memories Col Stearns while living next door to you in Germany. You and your wife were always very friendly to us. Job well done serving our Country and raising a great family. I will never forget you doing an astounding number of pushups on your patio! Godspeed! The little guy next door, David Glick.*

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**David Glick** - January 28, 2021 at 01:06 PM

EP

“ *Thank you Ray for being a big part of our family. We love you dearly.*

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**Elaine Preston** - January 28, 2021 at 12:37 PM

AS

“ *Thank you my dearest Ray, for 24 beautiful years of love and devotion. Missing you every moment of the day.  
Your Loving Wife,  
Dolly*

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**Amelia Stearns** - January 28, 2021 at 11:28 AM