



Ralph D. Mattison

January 27, 1951 - March 17, 2026

Ralph Dean Mattison, age 75, of West Plains, Missouri, passed away peacefully on March 17, 2026, at home surrounded by his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Emma Jean (née Heob) Mattison, and his brothers, Terry Lyn Mattison and Gary Michael Mattison.

Ralph is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Crystal Hawkins Mattison; his daughter, Lauren Mattison Wise and her husband, CJ; his son, Wesley Ryan Mattison, all of West Plains, Missouri; and his sister, Sandra McKinney of Hillsboro, Missouri.

He was a loving grandfather to four grandchildren: McKenzie Raine Mattison of Columbia, Missouri; Brynn Watson and her fiancé, Sawyer Skinner, of Kansas City, Missouri; Parker Dean Mattison of Columbia, Missouri; and Kyler Matthew Whittington of Willow Springs, Missouri. He was also a proud uncle to many nieces and nephews.

Ralph was born on January 27, 1951, in Crystal City, Missouri. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Navy. On June 27, 1975, he married the love of his life, Crystal.

Ralph spent his career as a Production Program Manager at DRS in West

Plains, where he managed Plant 4 and was known for his steady leadership and reliability. He earned a Master's degree in Business and went on to serve as an adjunct professor at Drury University, where he taught business courses. He loved teaching and often used humor to make learning more enjoyable for his students.

In retirement, Ralph found joy in life's simple pleasures. He could often be found on the golf course, tending to his garden, or taking pride in his lawn. He enjoyed keeping tropical fish and closely followed college basketball and football. He especially cherished time spent with his breakfast group, the "ROMEOS" (Retired Old Men Eating Out), sharing conversation and laughter with friends.

Ralph had a presence that was impossible to miss. With his booming voice and ready smile, he brought warmth and energy wherever he went. He was known for his kindness and his steady, calming nature—often described as the calm to his wife's chaos. His sense of humor and ability to make others laugh will be remembered by all who knew him.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 28, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at The Barn Event Center (formerly the Monster Corn Maze), 181 SSR-AM Highway, Cabool, Missouri, 65689. All are welcome to attend, share memories, and celebrate Ralph's life.

Arrangement by Always Faithful Memorial Services, West Plains, Missouri.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR **28**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (cst)

The Barn Event Center
181 State Route AM
Cabool, MO 65689

Tribute Wall



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Ralph D. Mattison.*



March 23 at 01:39 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ralph D. Mattison.

March 23 at 01:39 PM



“ *So sad for Chrys and family. We were raised like brothers with Aunt Emma and my mother Maxine Woodland.. I wish we could have kept in touch more, but time and distance take their toll. Please feel free to contact me at [swoodla@ cox.net](mailto:swoodla@cox.net) or call us anytime at 918-637-4698. Miss you Cuz. Steve and Debbie Woodand*

Steven Woodland - March 22 at 09:25 AM



“ *Ralph and Pat at a Willow Springs golf tournament*



Lauren Wise - March 20 at 02:48 PM

AR

“ *Crystal, Lauren/CJ , Wesley, & Families,*

We extend our Deepest Sympathy to each of you on the passing of Ralph. He will be missed in the neighborhood! He always had a Smile and a Wave to his neighbors as he passed by going thru our neighborhood. We will be keeping all of you in our daily prayers and thoughts. Daily may God provide comfort, peace, strength, and encouragement to each of you. May God bless all of you.

In Christian Love,

Tim, Amber, and Corby Redburn

Amber Redburn - March 20 at 12:22 PM

SW

“ *RIP best friend and cousin as kids. Got into a lot of mischief together as kids, especially tormenting Mike and Terry.*

Steve & Debbie Woodland

Steven Woodland - March 20 at 09:30 AM

PB

“ *Ralph, Edgar Gil and myself shared the right side of the offensive line way back in 1968, our senior year. As a team, we were 2-3-4, a record not easily compiled. On a complicated code we used to set up blocking, Ralph was "PEACHES". Edgar was PUMPKIN PIE " and was "APPLE". Only a few knew what it meant but we had fun with it. I never saw Ralph without a smile.*

Paul Burch - March 19 at 09:26 PM