



## Ralph E. King Jr.

October 26, 1926 - February 20, 2024

Ralph E. King, Jr., 97 of Fort Myers, FL passed away Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at Life Care Center of Estero. Formerly of Allegany, NY he moved to Bonita Springs, FL in 1987 before relocating to Fort Myers in 2016. Ralph was born October 26, 1926 in Newark, NJ the son of the late Ralph E. and Mildred (Johnson) King, Sr.

Mr. King was a WWII Veteran, proudly serving his country in the United States Army in the Philippines during the later stages of the war.

Ralph is a 1950 graduate of St Bonaventure University in mathematics and earned a master's degree in education in 1952. The day after he earned his bachelor's degree, he married the love of his life, Betty M. (Brunner) King on June 5, 1950. They lived in Olean and Fillmore, NY as well as Chatham and Metuchen, NJ before moving to Allegany, NY in the summer of 1956 to teach at his college alma mater. His passion was to share mathematics and as part of that passion, he initiated the Pre-Engineering program and was the director of the department until his retirement in 1991. He authored 200 problem solutions which have appeared in mathematics journals. Professor King loved his 35 years at Bonaventure, the students were his pride and joy. He also served his community on the Allegany Village Board for many years.

Ralph was an avid golfer who also enjoyed playing bridge and painting. Mr.

King was a faithful parishioner at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church where he was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 8877.

Survivors include his loving children, Barbara (Stephen) Hirst of Ellicottville, NY, Paul King of Wonalancet, NH, Daniel King of Buffalo, NY, Peter (Lisa) King of Bartlesville, OK, and Robert King of Burnsville, MN; grandchildren, Aaron, Brendan, Hannah and Ryan King; and great grandson, Cabot. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Betty M. King.

A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held at Barkley Place Senior Living in Fort Myers on Sunday February 25th at 12:30p.

He will be laid to rest at the Sarasota National Cemetery, Tuesday February 27th at 1:30p. Online condolences may be offered by visiting [www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com](http://www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com).

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Ralph's name may be made to the Bonaventure Fund by mailing a check to St Bonaventure University Office of Advancement, PO Box 2519, 3261 W State Rd, St Bonaventure, NY14778 referencing Ralph King memorial or by calling 716-375-2328.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home, Family Owned Since 1978.

# Cemetery Details

## Sarasota National Cemetery

9810 State Road 72  
Sarasota, FL 34241  
<http://www.cem.va.gov/>

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

FEB **25**. 12:30 PM (ET)

Barkley Place Senior Living  
36 Barkley Circle  
Fort Myers, FL 33907

# Tribute Wall

DW

“ We are very sad to hear of Ralph’s passing. Our deepest sympathy to the King family. Forty years ago, Ralph took time from his celebratory Thanksgiving holiday to help a young engineering students solve a mathematical equation. We will now fast forward 40 years when Ralph goes to the veterans clinic in Cape Coral and discusses Thanksgiving with his physician. He invites the young doctor to spend Thanksgiving with part of his family. Unknown to Ralph this is the son of the engineering student. Of course the doctor accepts and had a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner with Ralph, Barb, and Steve.

Thank you Ralph for the service to your country, your love of teaching, and your unconditional support of your students not to mention your loving family. You have touched many generations, including our two.

*Diane and Ken Wieczorek*

---

**Diane Wieczorek** - March 14, 2024 at 04:58 PM

SE

Very sad to hear of Ralph’s passing. I was his student in the pre engineering program at St Bonaventure from 1984 to 1986 before continuing to Clarkson University. Prof King was the greatest professor that I ever had and I loved his wit and brass tacks attitude.

---

**Stephan Eisert** - May 28, 2024 at 06:17 PM

HI

“ My heart is pained in hearing of Ralph's passing. He was near and dear to me. I'll always remember our chats and his words of wisdom. I am better for knowing him.

*Hillary Cachet*

---

**Hillary** - February 28, 2024 at 09:32 PM

HI

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



---

Hillary - February 28, 2024 at 09:30 PM

JT

“ Dear King Family, we were sorry to hear of your dad's passing. We have such fond memories of your Dad. He and my parents, (John and Jean Bogdanski) were great friends in Citrus Park. Wade and I also became friends when we moved there, too! We always enjoyed listening to your Dads amazing stories. He was a great, kind man. We are blessed to have know him,  
Wade and Joan Thomas

---

joan thomas - February 27, 2024 at 09:25 AM

 Mary Giardini

“ Dear Family,  
May God bless you as you go through this challenging time. Let the love you shared with Ralph and the many happy memories you made together comfort you until you meet again.  
I will remember him as a very kind man who thought of others.  
You are in our prayers at Mt. Irenaeus.  
With love, Mary for the Mountain friars and community.

PS - from Michelle Marcellin - He was my calculus teacher when I went to Bona's and I went to school with one of his kids. He was a very nice man.

---

Mary Giardini - February 26, 2024 at 02:50 PM

TE

“ Sorry to hear of Ralph’s passing but he certainly had a long & full life - now reunited with Betty. We both knew them well from “Citrus Park”. Ted sang with Ralph in the Chordsmen & we had a couple of visits after they moved to Barclay Place. Our condolences to all the family.

*Ted & Jane Elphick from Oakville, Ontario.*

---

**Ted & Jane Elphick** - February 25, 2024 at 01:35 PM



“ Ralph was a wonderful neighbor and family friend while growing up in Allegany, N.Y. It was years later our families connected again in Ellicottville, N.Y. We lived close to Barb and Steve and were able to visit with Ralph and Betty , reminiscing of earlier days.

*RIP Ralph, you were special.*

*Cathy( Nenno) and Kevin Vail*

---

**Catherine Nenno Vail** - February 24, 2024 at 07:51 AM

DD

“ King family,

*I'm very sorry to hear of the passing of Prof King. He was always one of my hero's from the days of the house at 7th and Oak in Allegany, NY. through his days with the SBU Pre-Engineering program. I will miss him! (My father Earl has been gone almost 25 years.) Donald G. Dentler SBU '74 & '77*

---

**Don Dentler** - February 23, 2024 at 05:16 PM

LM

“ My deepest sympathy to all the King family. Many fond memories of our parents friendship back in the 60’s and early 70’s. So sorry for your loss. Mr King was a great friend to my Dad. Lynne Sliger Melnyk.

Lynne Melnyk - February 23, 2024 at 12:39 PM

BW

“ Bill and Nancy Walsh send our thoughts and prayers to the family. Nancy was a math assistant to Ralph when she was a student at St. Bonaventure. Ralph would drive Paul and I to Clarkson for college.

Bill Walsh - February 22, 2024 at 10:03 AM

PH

“ My favorite memory of Ralph was when I watched him proudly carrying the NYS flag in the annual Mardi Gras parade. When he & Betty left Citrus Park , he gave me his flag.



Pat Harding - February 21, 2024 at 09:11 PM

KW

I played bridge with Ralph & Betty for years. His hands were always held behind his back when he walked in the mornings. He was a wonderful man. I missed them when they moved from the park.

Karen Winkelman - February 24, 2024 at 07:48 AM