



## Mr. Ralph Eastburn

August 17, 1933 - January 28, 2024

Ralph Herman Eastburn, 90, passed away quietly on January 28, 2024, after a short battle with cancer at his home in Foley, Alabama, surrounded by his four children and close friends.

Ralph was born in Montgomery, AL on August 17, 1933. He graduated Foley High School in 1951 with honors in Citizenship, Sports and Science. Ralph attended Auburn University from 1951-1954 where he studied Industrial Management. In his senior year of college, Ralph enlisted in the United States Marine Corps to serve during the Korean War. He returned to complete his education at Auburn in 1957.

Ralph met Betty Diamond, the love of his life in 1958. They married shortly after. He loved and cherished her and took care of her until her death on June 5, 2019. They were best friends and greatest loves. He will be interred with her at the columbarium at Rose Lawn Cemetery in Gulf Breeze, FL where they will once again be together.

Ralph loved to share stories of his childhood adventures growing up in Foley. His fondest memories were with his brother Joe, and their friends, Jimmy and Brooks Holmes. The foursome would adventure off into the woods for many days at a time, fishing and foraging for their food while having the adventure of their lives.

Ralph began his career as an FAA Air Traffic Controller where over a 20-year period he worked at the New Orleans, Jacksonville, Miami and Pensacola Air traffic Control Centers. He served as president of the Air traffic Controllers Union in Pensacola between 1967 and 1979. Ralph was also a private pilot and owned several planes over the years. Flying was part of the Eastburn way of life, and most of the men in his family were private pilots.

After retiring from the FAA, Ralph's wife, Betty, signed him up for a real estate course without asking him and rather than waste the fee for the course, he reluctantly agreed to attend. The rest is history. He found his true calling. He developed many single-family and mixed-use housing and condominium projects in the area. His biggest accomplishment was building the two wastewater treatment plants in Orange Beach, AL, a necessary prerequisite for his largest land development project in Orange Beach. Overcoming numerous city and state obstacles over ten years, the treatment plants were finally built. Orange Beach is what it is today in no small part because of his perseverance.

Ralph's passions were fishing, flying, family and friends. His motto was "Never give up and never give in". He was a good friend, family member, husband, father and Marine. He will be forever missed and loved.

Ralph, the fifth of seven children, was preceded in death by his parents Benjamin Eastburn Jr. and Erma Lee (Spradley) Eastburn, his wife Betty (Diamond) Eastburn, his siblings Margery (Eastburn) Kennedy, Robert Eastburn, Richard Eastburn, Erma Jean (Eastburn) Forman and Joseph Eastburn.

Ralph is survived by his sister Dorothy (Eastburn) Burk; his four children, Vince Eastburn, Deon (Eastburn) Varonos, Stephanie (Eastburn) Middlebrook and Kenneth Eastburn, as well as eleven Grandchildren and twenty Great Grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday February 3, 2024, at Pine Rest Funeral Home in Foley AL. Inurnment will be at the columbarium at Rose Lawn Cemetery in Gulf Breeze, FL at a later date in a private family ceremony.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

FEB 3. 10:00 AM (CT)

Pine Rest Funeral Home

16541 U.S. 98

Post Office Box 328

Foley, AL 36535

(251) 943-5667

[info@pinerestfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@pinerestfuneralhome.com)

<http://www.pinerestfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Mr. Ralph Eastburn.*



February 02, 2024 at 10:55 AM



“ *Charles E. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Ralph Eastburn.*

**Charles E.** - February 02, 2024 at 10:55 AM



“ *Kevin and Paula purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Ralph Eastburn.*



**Kevin and Paula** - February 01, 2024 at 09:55 AM



“ *Kevin and Paula planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Ralph Eastburn.*

**Kevin and Paula** - February 01, 2024 at 09:55 AM

FF

“ From sister Dot and family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Mr. Ralph Eastburn.



From sister Dot and family - February 01, 2024 at 09:53 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Ralph Eastburn.



February 01, 2024 at 09:36 AM

LO

“ Liz and Chris O'Brien. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Ralph Eastburn.

Liz and Chris O'Brien. - February 01, 2024 at 09:36 AM

MV

“ Much love to the fam, Eric and Vanessa purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Ralph Eastburn.



Much love to the fam, Eric and Vanessa - January 31, 2024 at 06:00 PM

MV

“ Much love to the fam, Eric and Vanessa planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Ralph Eastburn.

Much love to the fam, Eric and Vanessa - January 31, 2024 at 06:00 PM

SM

“ Susan, Bob and Greg Mason purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Ralph Eastburn.



Susan, Bob and Greg Mason - January 31, 2024 at 05:58 PM

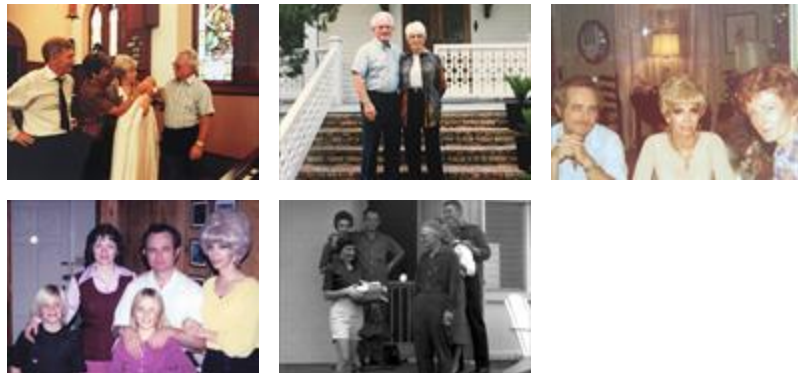
SM

“ Susan, Bob and Greg Mason planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Ralph Eastburn.

Susan, Bob and Greg Mason - January 31, 2024 at 05:58 PM



“ 18 files added to the album Memories Album



Pine Rest Funeral Home and Memorial Park, LLC - January 31, 2024 at 03:38 PM