



Ralph B. Hodson Sr.

May 19, 1918 - October 30, 2017

Lt. Col. Ralph B. Hodson, Sr., 99, of LaFayette, NY, passed away peacefully on Monday morning, October 30, 2017, at Loretto in Syracuse, NY. Born on May 19, 1918, in Brooklyn, NY, he was the son of the late Henry Thomas and Louise (Pascal) Hodson. Ralph joined the US Army in 1941, fought in the Aleutian Islands, and was discharged from active duty in 1945 as a proud WWII Veteran. He went on to join the Army Reserves and served for over thirty years, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Ralph married Kathryn Sancimino on May 6, 1945, after a 6-week correspondence courtship. In 1953, he built his home in LaFayette for his growing family. Ralph and Kathryn, inseparable, spent over 59 years together before her death on May 9, 2004.

His love of the railroad started with the construction of a model railroad layout at the 1939 World's Fair in New York City. When the Fair ended, he was hired at the transportation department of the New York Central Railroad, which would become Penn Central Railroad, and finally Conrail. His career spanned from a brakeman, to a conductor, then yardmaster and the final several years as a Senior Operations Analyst, retiring in 1982.

Ralph was a communicant and former parish administrator of St. Joseph's Church in LaFayette, a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus, and

past president of NARVE. He was also involved in model railroading clubs, worked the election polls in LaFayette for several years, and baked hundreds of pies for the LaFayette Apple Festival. Most importantly, he loved his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Ralph is survived by his sons, Ralph Jr. (Carleen) Hodson of Baldwinsville, NY, Tom (Sandra) Hodson of Liverpool, NY, Paul (Debra) Hodson of Saratoga Springs, NY, Patrick (Suzy) Hodson of Baldwinsville, NY, and John (Diane) Hodson of Gwinn, MI; daughters, Mary Lou Caples of Liverpool, NY, Kathy (Linda Young) Gerber of Stuart, FL, and Rose (Dennis) Lundy of LaFayette, NY; 18 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his wife and parents, Ralph was predeceased by an infant son, Joseph, in 1960; granddaughter, Sara-Jean Hodson; sister, Dorothy Hill; daughter-in-law, Mary Jean Hodson; and son-in-law, David Caples.

Calling hours will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday, November 3, 2017, at Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home, 4612 S. Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13205. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 9 a.m. on Saturday, November 4, 2017, at the Church of the Nativity at St. Joseph's, 6104 US-20, LaFayette, NY 13084. Entombment will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery Mausoleum, DeWitt.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ralph's name to the LaFayette Fire Department, 2444 US-11, LaFayette, NY 13084.

To express sympathy, please visit www.ballweg-lunsford.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery

4100 East Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY 13214

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 3. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home - Syracuse
4612 S. Salina Street
Syracuse, NY 13205
(315) 492-3504
info@ballweg-lunsford.com
<https://www.ballweg-lunsford.com/>

Service

NOV 4. 9:00 AM (ET)

The Church of the Nativity at St. Joseph's
6104 US-20
LaFayette, NY 13084

Tribute Wall

JT

“ *The last of my uncles and aunts is now gone....Ralph at age 99.*

Uncle Ralph and Aunt Kathryn were favorite relatives of my wife Betsy and me. Even

though we lived far apart we stayed active with each other...one of our granddaughters

has Kathryn as her middle name..

Ralph and Kathryn visited our family in Phoenix and Betsy and I we visited them in

LaFayette.

When Ralph was in Arizona I gave him tours of various railroad areas, and remember

one time us riding on our light rail system, where Ralph sat directly behind the operator.,

and spoke to each of them at the end of the line.

I remember when younger reading about about the progress of the family home

from the basement until "completion"

Ralph enjoyed telling me about his years of military service, and I was a willing listner.

I will miss him....his passing was not unexpected, but disappointing.

John Trombino....Phoenix, Arizona....November 7, 2017

john trombino - November 07, 2017 at 12:30 PM

JD

“ We were deeply sorry to hear of this great man's passing. He had accomplished so much in his life. Our hearts share the sorrow with our good friends Pat & Suzy as well as the entire family. Being a wonderful father, husband, and veteran, there will be only one place for him..... And heaven can't wait ! Much Love, Joe and Holly Donelan

Joe and Holly Donelan - November 03, 2017 at 07:11 AM

SC

“ I'll always remember holidays spent with Aunt Rosie and Uncle Dennis, and spending time with Ralph. The holidays seem to bring people together when they don't usually see one another throughout the year. What a sweet man Ralph was! He will surely be missed-may God rest his soul and reunite him with Kay, his beloved wife. Xoxo

Shannon Colón - November 03, 2017 at 01:11 AM

JJ

“ Rest In Peace LT. COL. Hodson... A true American Hero from our greatest generation!
Deepest Sympathy to the Hodson Family... John Greeley Jr.

John Greeley Jr. - November 02, 2017 at 10:55 PM

LJ

“ Love, Beth and Justin purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ralph B. Hodson Sr..



Love, Beth and Justin - November 02, 2017 at 08:20 PM

JH

“ We are so sorry for your loss 😞 All are in our thought and prayers. Harry and Judy Homer



Judy and Harry Homer - November 01, 2017 at 09:38 PM

GL

“ Rest in Peace, Lt. Col. Hodson and thank you for your military service to this great Nation.
To those left behind, may he remain in your hearts through fond memories.

Garry G. Luke

Garry Luke - November 01, 2017 at 04:35 PM

DB

“ I am sorry to hear of Ralph's passing. He and I soldiered together in the Army Reserves back in the early 60's, and ironically enough Ralph Jr. and I soldiered together in the 80's. Both fine gentlemen. May Ralph rest in peace, and may his family take solace in the fact that he lived a long and full life.

David Baker

David Baker - November 01, 2017 at 04:05 PM

BD

“ *Ralph and Carleen & family -
Your father lived a full and meaningful life and has left a lasting
legacy. Prayers for you all .*

Beth (Sloper) Doolittle

Beth Doolittle - November 01, 2017 at 01:41 PM

MS

“ *My sincere condolences to his family. I remember them both fondly
from my days at St Joseph's in Lafayette. Mary (Stevenson)
Stimson*

mary Stimson - November 01, 2017 at 08:28 AM

RB

“ *Our most sincere sympathy goes out to all of this great man's family
& friends. Hopefully 99 years of his history and so many fond
memories can soften the pain in your hearts. Rest in peace, Ralph.
Sincerely Nancy & Ron Bush*

Ron & Nancy Bush - November 01, 2017 at 08:12 AM

KB

“ *Tom and family,*

*I am so sorry for your loss. Please know that you are in my thoughts
and prayers during this time of sadness. May you find comfort in all
the wonderful memories you have of your father.*

With my sincerest sympathy,

Kim Batruch

Kim batruch - November 01, 2017 at 07:48 AM

GH

“ *Dear Hodson Family,
We are so saddened for the passing of your dear and loving father .
What a full life Uncle Ralph had, he made it to 99. All the people he
has touched and all the memories he created for all of us , will be
with us always. We were blessed to have him as long as we did.
I feel joy knowing he has been reunited with all his first loves and
happiness knowing he will never be separated from them again.
This brings peace to my heart and I can only imagine the joy in
heaven tonight!
God bless you all and keep you in his loving care today and always.
With heartfelt sympathy and
love, Ginny and Ralph Hill*

Ginny Hill - October 31, 2017 at 10:59 PM