



Raymond R. Sykes

August 25, 1939 - September 1, 2015

Obituary

Raymond Roy Sykes

“Quiet Strength”

As the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, the life of Raymond Roy Sykes ended when he departed this earthly life at Johns Hopkins Hospital, ICU on Tuesday, September 1, 2015, at 8:20 a.m. with the love of his life for over 50 years and his three daughters by his bedside whispering gently to him, “I love you” and “Daddy, it is okay”.

As they prayed the Lord’s Prayer, Raymond stretched his hands and extended his arms in the air three times with his eyes perched toward ceiling.

Approaching the end of the prayer, which states, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, as “Amen” was said, that was the end of Raymond’s earthly existence. Ray quietly slipped away into the arms of his Lord and Savior, Jesus. Amen ended this life, but began the legacy of Raymond Roy Sykes fondly known as “Fella” by his family and very close friends.

Raymond was the third of six children born to the late Allen Sykes and Irma Brown on August 25, 1939 in Littleton, NC as recorded on his birth certificate.

He sworn in to serve his country as a military man with a birthdate of August 26, 1939. This began Raymond's distinctive birthday celebrations on August 25 and 26th. Raymond's birth began his uniqueness as an individual and his unique lifestyle of celebrating two birthdates.

Raymond and Vivian Green met at a tender age of 7 at St. Phillips Lutheran Church in Baltimore where Vivian's father was the Boy Scout leader of troop 251. Of course, Raymond claims he joined the troop with the sole purpose of being near Vivian.

Raymond left for the military immediately after graduating from Robert Moton High School in Carroll County, MD. He returned home for a visit and reconnected with Vivian at St. Phillips church. Raymond and Vivian were married June 21, 1964. From that union four children were born: Kim, Eric, Kay and Kia. Sadly, Eric preceded Raymond in death and Raymond was the last surviving member of his siblings.

Raymond served his country in the U.S. Air Force faithfully for 22 years and ended his career in the military as a Master Sargent Fire Protection Supervisor. During his time with the U.S. Air Force, he proudly served on Air Force One under Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Carter. Following his military service, Raymond worked as a Fire Protection Inspector for Howard County Government for over 18 years.

Raymond and Vivian shared a lifetime of love. There was a noticeable sparkle in each of their eyes when they looked at each other. They loved being together, traveling together, and planning their days together in retirement. Even a trip to Sam's Club was a date. You could often catch the sole-mates holding hands or stealing a moment for a kiss. Raymond was the ultimate provider and protector for his wife and family. Spending time with his children and grandchildren was one of his first priorities and a great joy for him. He

was always there for advice, for comfort, and support. He was a builder of family traditions with his girls and his grandsons.

As Raymond raised and nurtured his girls, he also touched the lives of many. He was a selfless, caring and compassionate man who meant so much to so many. If you knew Raymond, his favorite past times were grilling, gardening, watching western movies and being on the water. He took pride in his big yard where he was able to maintain a large garden earlier in life. He loved fishing, crabbing, and enjoying time with friends. He also had a great sense of humor. Raymond was often off helping anyone in need in the neighborhood. He was known to cut the lawns of several neighbors and everyone was always happy to see him when it snowed as he took to the sidewalks with the snow blower. He left a permanent and loving impression with all those who knew him. Whether he was in your life for a reason or a season, he undoubtedly left an impressionable mark on you. He touched many lives and will forever be remembered as a wonderful and kind husband, father, grandfather, godfather, cousin, uncle, neighbor and friend. He will continue to be loved and greatly missed.

Raymond leaves to cherish his memory: his devoted wife Vivian of fifty-one years, three daughters; Kim Holmes (Keith), Kay Sykes, Kia Bell (Bernard, Jr), three grandsons: Davis Holmes, Grant Holmes, Bernard Bell III and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, special friends and neighbors.

Cemetery Details

Baltimore National Cemetery

5501 Frederick Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21228

Previous Events

Public Viewing

SEP 8. 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Wake

SEP 9. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Service

SEP 9. 10:00 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Raymond R. Sykes*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Burden (Duck) Sykes & family purchased the Secret Garden Basket for the family of Raymond R. Sykes.*



Burden (Duck) Sykes & family - September 07, 2015 at 11:02 AM



“ *Sorry for your loss, may GOD give you comfort in your time of need. 2Corinthians :3,4.*

Carolyn - September 07, 2015 at 05:31 AM



“ *Dear Vivian and family,*

You are in my thoughts, my heart and my prayers. I am so sorry for your loss. Hold onto your memories, and let them guide you during this time of sadness. Wishing you and your family strength and peace and may God's love make your grief bearable.

*A friend always,
Hugs,
Georgianne Duffey and family*

Georgianne Duffey - September 06, 2015 at 02:53 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Raymond R. Sykes.*



September 05, 2015 at 08:28 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond R. Sykes.*



September 04, 2015 at 11:15 PM



“ *With Love, Ralph, Carrie, Stacy & Peggy purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Raymond R. Sykes.*



With Love, Ralph, Carrie, Stacy & Peggy - September 04, 2015 at 11:12 AM

BF

“ Ray was one of the first people I worked with when I came to Howard County in 1989. He was a dedicated fire protection professional and I learned a lot from him. Having both been firefighters (Ray as a 20 year Air Force man) we "spoke the language" and understood the importance of good code enforcement. The people and buildings of Howard County are, quite literally, safer because of Ray's work.

Ray retired so that he could enjoy the benefits of the fruits of his labors; I'm so sorry that this quality time and chapter of his life has been cut short. On behalf of all of us at the Howard County Dept. of Inspections, Licenses, & Permits, our sincerest condolences and know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Bob Frances

Bob Frances - September 04, 2015 at 09:54 AM

SC

“ I am at a loss for words. Your family has always held a special place in our hearts. Our prayer for you is that the amazing memories you have will help you find some comfort in the days ahead. I spent many a day driving you crazy when we lived next door. You never turned me away. We will continue to pray for your family.

Love,

Stacy Casey (Platt) & Ralph Platt

Stacy Casey - September 04, 2015 at 07:03 AM

CV

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family! Mr Ray you were such an amazing neighbor to Stacy, Dad, Mom, and I when we lived next to you. I hope that your family finds peace in this difficult time.
With love,
Carrie Vien (Platt)

carrie vien - September 04, 2015 at 06:55 AM

DA

“ I would like to express my sincere condolences to the family in the loss of your loved one . John 5 : 21,28,29

Delores Allen - September 04, 2015 at 04:22 AM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Funeral Homes - September 03, 2015 at 04:03 PM