



Ralph Dale Laughlin

November 8, 1943 - April 17, 2012

Ralph Dale Laughlin, son of the late James Ralph and Pauline Elizabeth (Ransom) Laughlin, was born November 8, 1943 in Camdenton, Missouri. Ralph grew up in Camdenton and graduated from Camdenton High School in 1961. While in school, Ralph played on the very first football team for Camdenton. He also played basketball and participated in track.

After graduating from high school, Ralph attended Central Missouri State College in Warrensburg and graduated in 1965 with a Bachelor Degree in Education. He then began his teaching career. He taught physical education in Richland for three years, Waynesville East Elementary School for six years, and then served as principal for the next twenty-two years at Pence Kindergarten School, Williams, Pick and Wood Middle School. In 1970, Ralph obtained his Master's Degree and his specialist certificate from University of Columbia in 1981. He retired in 1996.

On November 28, 1964, Ralph married the love of his life, Barbara Ellen Meads in Camdenton, Missouri. They shared over 47 years of marriage together and were blessed with one son James Randall Laughlin.

After retiring from the school system, Ralph had the time to do the things that he loved to do. His biggest pleasure was playing golf. The highlight of his golfing years was being able to play at Pebble Beach. He spent 20+ years

playing with John Cox and Jim Beckner.

Ralph also enjoyed traveling extensively with Barbara, the Beckners and the Coxes. They always enjoyed their times together. He also liked to watch all kinds of sports on television and going to baseball games.

At an early age, Ralph made an important decision in his life and he accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior. Ralph was a very active member of the Westside Baptist Church of Waynesville. He served as deacon and sang in the church choir for 37 years. Since 1995, Ralph was very involved with the Gideons where he held various positions in the organization and also served as State Scripture Chairman.

Ralph went home to be with his Lord the evening of Tuesday, April 17, 2012, in his home after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He had attained the age of 68 years, 5 months and 9 days. He will be sadly missed but fondly remembered by all those that knew and loved him.

Ralph leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Barbara Laughlin of the home; one son: James Randall Laughlin (Christine) of Columbia, MO; mother-in-law: Jewell Meads of Camdenton, MO; one brother: Jerol Laughlin (Sandy) of Camdenton, MO; one grandson: Aden; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

In addition to his parents, Ralph was preceded in death by two sisters: Mary Patricia Laughlin and Carol Bea Dye.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, April 21, 2012 in the Westside Baptist Church of Waynesville with Pastor John Shaw and Pastor Lindell Shelden officiating. Ralph's dear friend, Jim Beckner recalled his wonderful memories of Ralph. Ralph's son, Randy also gave a beautiful

eulogy of his dad. Mike Freeman, Becky Lercher and Greg Gabel sang "If You Only Knew", "Yes I Am" and led the congregation in singing "What A Day That Will Be". Pianist Renita DeMalade played the prelude and postlude. Serving as escorts were Jeff and Matt Laughlin, John Cox, Steve Tuckness, Marvin Long and Don Brown. Serving as honorary escorts were Dwight Hensley, Kenny Foster, Jim Bales and Paul Lowe.

Burial followed in the Laughlin Cemetery of Camdenton, Missouri. Services were under the direction of Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Ralph Laughlin to the Gideons International, Westside Baptist Church Building Fund or the American Cancer Society and may be left at the funeral home.

Previous Events

Service

APR **21**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Westside Baptist Church
801 Historic 66 West
Waynesville, MO

Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Ralph Dale Laughlin*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ralph Dale Laughlin*

January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *Barbara,*
We were so sorry to hear of Ralph's passing. Even though we left Waynesville awhile ago, we remembered fondly and spoke often of you both. Jessaca has many times used her "Ralph Laughlin" look, peering over the top of her glasses, especially when Casey's said or done something and she felt that was how Ralph would have reacted. Please know that you are in our prayers and in our hearts. Take care, Sandy, Jessaca and Casey Bond.##imported-begin##Jessaca, Sandy and Casey Bond##imported-end##

April 25, 2012 at 01:45 PM



“ Dear Barbara, I have held you and Ralph in such high regard from the time I first met you both. You have been faithful to the Lord you love and gracious to everyone that has known you. I am so sorry Ralph had to suffer from the cancer, and I grieved the whole time he did. As I prayed for his healing, I was convinced that the Lord would continue to be glorified by whatever happened. Ralph's expression of his faith was amazing, an encouragement to others, and now he has a complete healing in Heaven! You both displayed such courage and wisdom through your difficult ordeal! And now I can say that the funeral was a blessing to everyone as well. What a glorious testimony of his positive attitude, creative vision, and loving commitment to the Lord, his friends, and his family. He definitely had a passion for promoting the gospel of salvation to our community through music, a fine facility, and the distribution of scripture. You two really complimented each other. Bill and I are continuing to pray for you, Randy, and your mom as you cope with your loss. May the Lord bless and comfort you all. If there is anything we can do to help you, please call on us.##imported-begin##Annette Catts##imported-end##

April 23, 2012 at 12:56 AM



“ Mr. Laughlin was my principal when I was a young boy at Pick Elementary School. He was a man of very high ethical standards and a wonderful example for all of the children who knew him.##imported-begin##Grant##imported-end##

April 21, 2012 at 05:12 PM



“ I will never forget that cold dreary day in march when Ralph picked the twins and I up along with an injured standard poodle. It takes a genuine friend to venture out in the snow like he did. On top of that, he took us to the vet to get help go Bo. He will be remembered as that special angel that helped me out in my time of need. I am at peace knowing he is on our side rejoicing in heaven. My love goes out to your family.##imported-begin##Kirsten Eichner##imported-end##

April 21, 2012 at 02:41 PM



“ My soul rejoices! My heart aches! Continued prayers for you, Barbara, & Randy. Wish I could be there today to celebrate Ralph's home going. I am in spirit. Much love...##imported-begin##Judy Powers##imported-end##

April 21, 2012 at 01:53 PM



“ We will miss Ralph. He was a great encourager when I was Director of Missions.
Ann and I are praying for you all.##imported-begin##Dr. Dennis and Ann Crowder##imported-end##

April 21, 2012 at 11:13 AM



“ Barbara, sorry for your loss, I will be praying for you and your family. Had not know Ralph long but will always remember how much you and Ralph made me feel at home at Westside.
God Bless,
Linda Wyatt##imported-begin##Linda Wyatt##imported-end##

April 21, 2012 at 11:12 AM



“ An Angel has entered Heaven... he will be missed on Earth. Ralph was my dad's best friend. I can't remember him not being involved in my life. The Laughlin's were just always just "there". Ralph and Barbara and their son Randy have taken ...many vacations with mine. I am sure Randy will say some "good" and some "not so good". We visited each other's homes many times throughout the years. Whatever memories we carry with us will bond us together forever. The pictures we all have taken are evidence taken we cannot deny. Those memories and pictures remind us that life is short and life changes very quickly. Ralph was my dad's best friend. My family has suffered misfortunes throughout the years just as each of yours has. At the loss of my two uncles and my grandfather without schedule conflicts, expense or notification to our family Ralph (and Barbara) appeared to comfort our family. This is the stature of Ralph (and Barbara). The kind of friend everyone wants. Ralph cared deeply for his relationship with others and nurtured his relationship with my parents. I can only hope to be the kind of friend Ralph was to my parents and to find the kind of friendship that my parents had with Ralph. He was a true friend, a friend I want to be like. Ralph was my dad's best friend.##imported-begin##Dott Salyer##imported-end##

April 20, 2012 at 09:47 PM



“ Barb and Randy, all my prayers and good thoughts to you during this sad time. We believers can smile knowing that Ralph has gone to heaven and now knows all the mysteries. He was a special man and special friend. I will be at his funeral to show my great respect for him.##imported-begin##Luge Hardman##imported-end##

April 20, 2012 at 08:03 PM



“ Aunt Barbara I am with you in thought and prayers. Im sorry that I cant be there physically. I will continue to pray for strength because we all know Ralph is good to go, he is with Carol & Pat having a good ole time! I love you and miss you much!##imported-begin##Christina Hill##imported-end##

April 20, 2012 at 12:37 PM



“ Barbara,
Mike and I are so sorry for your loss. Ralph was a great educator who touched many children's lives during his years in education. We hope that you find peace in the Lord, your memories, family, and friends at this time.##imported-begin##Mike and Liz Rawlings##imported-end##

April 20, 2012 at 12:10 PM



“ Dear Barbara, I am so sorry to hear about Ralph. I thought so much about you folks after meeting you at Westside Baptist Church. I will never forget the day of 3/02/02 when we had our accident on I-44 and Ralph came and picked up my family and saw to it that they were safe and then came to see me in the hospital at FLW. I opened my eyes and there he was. God Bless you and your family. I will be praying for you.##imported-begin##Chet Johnson##imported-end##

April 20, 2012 at 10:24 AM



“ *Mr. Laughlin was a principal at Pick Elementary he loved kids he always made us laugh Thank You Barbra for sharing him with us for times like this is hard he was a very kind man who I shall never forget my prayers and thoughts are with everyone who knew him especially his family we will miss him but never be forgotten god bless*###imported-begin##Sue Ann Hertzling ###imported-end##

April 20, 2012 at 10:10 AM



“ *Mrs. Laughlin:
You are in my thoughts and prayers.*###imported-begin##Barbara Warren###imported-end##

April 19, 2012 at 08:35 PM



“ *Barbara and Randy, my heart goes out to you during this time of grieving over the loss of Ralph. Isaiah 41:10 has been a verse that has gotten me through each day. God is faithful and will be there to walk you through each day. Know of my love and my prayers!*###imported-begin##Ella Braden###imported-end##

April 19, 2012 at 08:07 PM



“ *I fondly remember to dodgeball games we played at East. Coach could throw that ball hard. Good times.*###imported-begin##Clif Dudley###imported-end##

April 19, 2012 at 03:19 PM



“ Barbara, Sorry for your loss. You and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Bill Anderson##imported-end##

April 19, 2012 at 01:18 PM



“ Barbara, Ralph is surely singing bass with the angels now. What a beautiful sound that must be! My spirits were always lifted when I would get to church on Sunday and read in the bulletin Ralph, Greg, Mike and Nick were singing. I pray God's strength for you and your family.##imported-begin##JB/Cheryl King##imported-end##

April 19, 2012 at 12:56 PM



“ Ms. Barbara - both you and Ralph have been a huge inspiration to us. As a husband and wife, you've touched more lives than you probably realize. Although our loss is heaven's gain, we will greatly miss Ralph's sense of humor and the great stories he shared.##imported-begin##Bruce & Marion Travis##imported-end##

April 19, 2012 at 11:24 AM



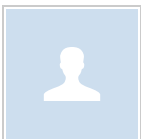
“ Mrs. Laughlin, I was a student at Williams Elementary School way back in the 70s when your husband was principal. I was just telling someone earlier this week how he remembered me and my siblings even after were grown. He also remembered dealing with my mom, which I never knew if that was a good or bad thing. Despite the fact that I was scared to death of him back then, I realized later that he was a really nice man. The fact that he was Carol Dye's brother made it even better because I absolutely adored her. Please take care during this difficult time and know that your husband leaves a wonderful and enduring legacy in the Waynesville School District.##imported-begin##Karen Churn##imported-end##

April 19, 2012 at 09:51 AM



“ Mr. Ralph has always been on of the greatest blessings to us. He always had a smile or a joke to keep us on our toes. We will always cherish those few months we took a small group class with him. He always had a couragous and positive outlook on his illness. He never lost faith in God and is such an inspiration. I only hope that someday, if I'm ever sick I can be HALF as couragous and encouraging to those around me. Ms. Barbara, you will be in our prayers. One day soon we'll all be together in glory!!##imported-begin##Nathan and Amber Box##imported-end##

April 19, 2012 at 09:38 AM



“ Barbara. so sorry for your loss.ralph was a friend to all .may the lord take care of you in this tim of sorrow.you are in my prayers.##imported-begin##norma smith[bench motor co.]##imported-end##

April 19, 2012 at 08:38 AM



“ Barbara, May God comfort and bless you at this time of great loss. We are praying for God's sweet presence to be with you and sustain you. We plan to see you soon.##imported-begin##Ed and Linda Martin##imported-end##

April 18, 2012 at 10:07 PM



“ Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Sheree Rippee McPherson##imported-end##

April 18, 2012 at 09:42 PM



“ Barbara, You know how much Ralph meant to me. He gave me my start at Pick Elementary where I taught first grade for him until he went to Williams. He taught me so much about what teaching should really be about and let me do it my way. I will always remember when I looked up at my Mother's visitation and saw the two of you standing there. Thank you so much for sharing him with the faculty, staff and children of Pick. Heaven just got a five star addition. Love to you and your family. Prayers for strength and peace for your heart. Marty##imported-begin##Marty McKee##imported-end##

April 18, 2012 at 09:23 PM



“ Barbara, so sad to hear about Ralph. I have the deepest respect for all Ralph did for me while he was the Principal at Williams and I always knew that he had my back. His presence at Westside always was a comfort while working there and attending services. Remember first getting to know Ralph when I first moved to Waynesville when we were on the same softball team. Glad I could call him my Friend. Barbara, Know God will send an Angel to comfort You.

Ben##imported-begin##Ben Lord##imported-end##

April 18, 2012 at 09:01 PM



“ Ralph was my Principal at Williams Elementary and we have been friends for many years. I will always remember Ralph for the way he cared for Chuck Cox when he became ill with cancer. You won't find a better example of a Christian than Ralph.

My condolences to Barbara and the family.##imported-begin##Jim Mathews##imported-end##

April 18, 2012 at 08:32 PM