



## James Ralph Hildebrand

December 27, 1921 - January 20, 2015

There is a great line from a Sam Peckinpah movie that says "It's not so much the dyin' that you hate; it's the not knowing what they're going to say about you." From everything we've heard since Ralph, Rufus, Hog Jaws, Dad, died; he need not worry.

James Ralph "Rufus" Hildebrand, died Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015 at the age of 93.

His wife of almost 7 decades, Betty Barclay, whom he lovingly referred to as "Hot Lips" was by his side until the very end. Betty and his four daughters, Pam, Sherri, Penny, and Polly, felt the love the day after his January 20th passing from those who cared for him much of the past three years. They truly loved him, and felt blessed to know him. The Hildebrand family truly believes these caregivers are angels on earth.

Ralph was smiley, friendly, considerate, compassionate, and giggly, embracing his inner-child. He loved his family, his friends, and life. But, declining health the past few years prevented him from pursuing his passions of hunting, fishing, boating, skiing, and life on the Lake of the Ozarks. Ralph was a unique character and lived larger than life. He was a putterer, a storyteller, and the life of every party.

Ralph was the son of Irvin and Ona Hildebrand of Windyville. Siblings were Lowell, Naomi, Lorea, Bert, and Vivian. Ralph was the last surviving sibling. Ralph was a WWII veteran serving in the Coast Guard. He married Betty Pauline Barclay of Tunas, February 6, 1947 in Columbus, Kansas. They

moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa where they raised their four daughters. Upon retiring, they returned to Versallies, Missouri where they enjoyed living on the Lake of the Ozarks, and then came full circle and settled in Buffalo to be closer to family.

In addition to his loving wife and daughters, Ralph was blessed with wonderful son-in-laws: The late Craig Cerney, Bill Grimes, Brian Whitney, and David Hinshaw; six grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

There's a quote that states, "If all of life is a stage, then I want better lighting." Ralph had perfect lighting, and the world was his stage. He will be missed. If you were lucky enough to cross paths with Ralph Hildebrand, you'll never forget him.

A Celebration of Life Service was held Saturday, January 24th at the Montgomery-Viets Chapel. Bill Grimes gave the eulogy. Military Honors were given by the U.S. Coast Guard and the Galmey VFW Post #9638. Cremation rites were then accorded by the Montgomery-Viets Funeral Home of Buffalo.

# Tribute Wall



“ *James Ralph Hildebrand*

October 09, 2023 at 12:27 PM



“ *James Ralph Hildebrand*

October 09, 2023 at 04:09 AM



“ *James Ralph Hildebrand*

October 05, 2023 at 11:14 PM



“ *James Ralph Hildebrand*

October 05, 2023 at 05:41 PM



“ *James Ralph Hildebrand*

December 20, 2022 at 10:20 AM



“ *James Ralph Hildebrand*

**Sara Schroeder** - August 01, 2016 at 12:24 AM

JP

“ *Ralph was a great man. I got to know him from the lake he was my grandparents neighbor. There was never a dull moment when Ralph was around he could make anyone laugh. He was a great man.*

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**Josh Pabst** - January 24, 2015 at 01:15 PM

JK

“ *Know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers. Take care of yourself. I have very fond memories of Ralph. He truly knew how to cheer me up. Love Judy*  
*Psalms 34:18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

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**Judy Krantz** - January 22, 2015 at 11:25 AM