



Frederick William Raymond "Ray" Melancon

March 2, 2018

Frederick William Raymond "Ray" Melancon, 95, of New Bedford, passed away peacefully at home with his family, Friday, March 2, 2018, after a period of declining health.

Born in New Bedford, son of the late Leger and Bertha (Armitage) Melancon, he was a lifelong resident of the city. He was preceded in death by his sisters, Gladys Bourgeois, Doris Selman and his brother Edmund Melancon, also his late wife, Helene (Cote) Melancon, mother of his two sons, Raymond and Robert.

Ray graduated from St. Hyacinth and Coyle High School, in Taunton. He went to work at Morse Cutting Tools as a machinist, tap thread grinder for 43 years. After retirement, he joined the Hawthorne Country Club where he enjoyed playing golf for over 20 years. He was an avid reader and kept up with current events.

Ray volunteered to serve in the Navy during WWII. He went through naval training to prepare for the Normandy Invasion. During the invasion, he served on the USS Anne Arundel AP-76. Ray was a Coxswain during D-Day, June 6, 1944, at Omaha Beach serving as a Higgins Boat driver. Later he participated in the invasions of Southern France. His ship was transferred to the Pacific where he participated in the invasion of Okinawa, facing days of Kamikaze attacks during the nighttime. After picking up wounded Marines and Army personnel at Iwo Jima, the ship participated in removing surrendered Japanese soldiers from Indochina and transferred them back to Japan. He achieved the rank of Motor Machinist's Mate 2nd Class.

Ray remarried, in 1963, to Mary Lorraine (Fortin) and had four children, Robert, Kevin, Michelle and David. He was a communicant of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish at St. James Church.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Lorraine; children, Raymond and his wife Cheryl of New Bedford, Bob and his wife Dannie of FL, Robert of New Bedford, Kevin of St. Helena, CA, Michelle Magliozzi and her husband Jim of Wilmington, and David and his wife Melanie of

North Dartmouth; 13 grandchildren, Lynne, Raymond, Rebecca, Paul, Kenneth, Keith, William, Caroline, Bennett, Michael, Jarod, Jonathan and Nicole; 11 great grandchildren; 2 great, great grandchildren.

In accordance with his wishes he will be cremated and a Celebration of Ray's Life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are by the Donaghy-Hathaway Funeral Home, 465 County St., New Bedford.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Community Nurse and Hospice Care, 62 Center St., Fairhaven, MA 02719, or the Veterans Transition House, 20 Willis St., New Bedford, MA 02740, or a charity of your choice

Comments



“ Robert, please accept our deepest sympathy on the passing of your Dad. We have such fond memories of our childhood days growing up in the Southend and your Dad was a big part of that. He was a wonderful man. We are thinking of you and hope you find peace and comfort in the memories you have.

Nancy and Jo Ann Panker - April 01, 2018 at 09:52 PM



“ My Deepest Sympathy to the family sorry for your loss he was a good soul he will be miss may he Rest in Peace.

Victor Fonseca - March 07, 2018 at 06:32 PM



“ I'm sorry for your family's loss.

Karrin Barkemeyer - March 08, 2018 at 08:05 AM



“ Sending our thoughts and prayers to Robert and the family. RIP Mr. Melancon, you were a wonderful man and it was an honor to know you.....

Dave & Wendy Henry - March 09, 2018 at 10:03 PM