



Mr. Ralph Edward Herman

June 8, 1957 - February 24, 2020

Ralph Edward Herman age 62, of Ringgold, Georgia passed away suddenly Monday - February 24, 2020. He was born in 1957 to the late Paul and Mary Ruth Herman. He was a follower of Christ and a graduate of Notre Dame High School in Chattanooga, Class of 1975. Ralph followed in his father's footsteps in many ways, becoming an aircraft pilot and an accomplished musician. His father Paul, was the former longtime organist at Engel Stadium for the Chattanooga Lookouts and a teacher of music. Ralph was a musician for the former band Blaze, former pianist for Country Artist Chely Wright, played keyboards and sang vocals several years at The Station House at The Chattanooga Choo-Choo, Governor's, the Rock and Country Club, and many other music venues. Ralph enjoyed flying and was currently building his own aircraft which he was very proud of. It was almost complete after countless hours of work. It has been said that he has had more fun building it as he would be flying it. Ralph was currently working at Crossroads Barber Shop in Chickamauga where he had been for 20 years. Most customers recognized Ralph's booth by his large mason jar of sweet tea he brought in daily. Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother: Dr. Claude Herman. Ralph is survived by his brother: Joe (Judy) Herman, niece: Kristen, nephew: Bryce, and their children. Graveside services will be held at 3:00 pm – Sunday – March 1, 2020 at Chickamauga Cemetery with Reverend George Clark officiating. Online guest book at www.wilsonfuneralhome.com. Arrangements by W. L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Homes – Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

Cemetery Details

Chickamauga City Cemetery

Lee Ave.
Chickamauga, GA 30707

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAR 1. 3:00 PM (ET)

Chickamauga City Cemetery
Lee Ave.
Chickamauga, GA 30707

Tribute Wall

RS

“ *Ramona Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Edward Herman*



Ramona Smith - March 30 at 05:26 PM

JC

“ Ralph was a special guy my fondest memories of him and his family were in grade school. Ralph and Joey and myself were in a band back then called the canaries and my dad was a graphic artist amongst many other things and he designed a bass drum front cover that pictured a canary made from the words and musical notes for us to this day still have the original on the wall I. My garage. Being the drummer I loved it, Ralph was The keyboard (piano) player and clearly the youngest of the 3 guys but without a doubt the most talented, Joey was the organist and leader.

We practiced together a lot and did a wedding reception as entertainment for their older brother Claude at the reception and boy we were proud.

And another time we were in the st .Stephens country day school talent show when Joey and I were in 7th grade and Ralph in 5th and we performed 3-songs, "love was Blue", "Judy in disguise" and one other I cannot recall...but we ended up winning the blue ribbon grand prize

And we were all so proud. The biggest reason was Ralph's unreal talent . I will never forget him or his brother or family...I always loved to show him off at the school or anywhere back then where there was a piano I'd ask him to play the song from peanuts cartoon that the character Beethoven would play and his version sounded....Better

Many years passed I got married and had bought a used piano and ran into him surprisingly somewhere here in Chattanooga and asked him if he could tune it for me and I'd pay him for his time...he came did it ,we visited and I surprised him by having an lp he was on with his band and asked him to autograph the copy for me and it thrilled him to do so....then life moved along at that breakneck speed and we lost contact and look now its 6-2-2025 and I've only seen Joey one time since hs graduation ...we get caught up in our lives and walla before you know it we are "old"

But having just found this on line I had to post a few stories I still holdralph will never be forgotten....i miss him and brother and family

*May he be up in heaven jammin with the best
Jeff A. Carr*



Jeff A. Carr - June 02, 2025 at 06:03 PM

BC

“ *It is with great sadness that I just learned of Ralph's passing. We grew up together in East Brainerd where a group of us were best buds- playing, fishing, camping out. I remember Ralph's tree fort in his back yard, with a hatch that allowed access to the roof, going swimming in Chickamauga Creek, the infamous "Concord Ape"! What a ruse he created, and kept secret for months! I remember Ralph's rabbits, and Thor, his German Shepard.*

Ralph had an absolutely brilliant mind and creative personality. I was awestruck by his ability to recreate any song on the keyboards. He hired me to be Road Manager when he was a member of H-M Powerhouse band- playing frat houses at UTC, various night clubs, and apartment community clubhouse functions.

Being a few years younger than Joe, we used to taunt him and make him angry, at Ralph's behest. Sorry Joe- it was all in good fun! I pray you find comfort.

It is comforting to revisit these memories but it saddens me that I didn't know Ralph was ill. We grow up and go out separate ways, and sadly, fall out of touch. Thanks for the memories old friend- be at peace. 😭

Bobby Cornwell

Bob Cornwell - March 11, 2020 at 09:58 AM



Best Wishes, Bobby!

Joe Herman - March 21, 2020 at 10:50 AM

JS

“ *Ralph was my #1 backup barber at Crossroads Barber Shop. I always enjoyed talking with him and especially regarding his flying. He will be greatly missed!*

Jim Skeen - March 04, 2020 at 07:57 PM

EB

“ *Ralph was one of the finest musicians we had the privilege to work with. Loved his sense of humor and style. Great barber and greater friend. You'll be missed, Ralph!*
- *Eli and Amanda Beard*

Eli Beard - March 02, 2020 at 07:48 PM

KH

“ *Love Ralph to death. Worked with him at station house. A magical piano man. Can't believe he's gone*

Kenny herron - February 29, 2020 at 09:49 PM

SA

“ *Steve & Debbie Atcheson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ralph Edward Herman*



Steve & Debbie Atcheson - February 29, 2020 at 07:43 PM



“ If any musicians or singers are at Ralph's “Take-off” tomorrow, it would be an honor for you to help lead two old gospel songs. “I'll Fly away” and “May the circle be unbroken”. Please feel free to bring your instrument.

Joe Herman - February 29, 2020 at 04:02 PM

CB

“ Connie Barrett lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Edward Herman



Connie Barrett - February 29, 2020 at 02:50 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Joe Herman - February 29, 2020 at 12:34 PM



Ralph and I would stay up late as children and sometimes sneak back to the living room to watch the TV station sign off with this movie clip. He was never closer to God than flying an airplane. Fly high my dear brother!

Joe Herman - February 29, 2020 at 12:37 PM

MW

While I did not know your brother personally, I did know your Mother very well, she worked with my mother, Ferne at Associated Fabrics for many years. My deepest sympathy for the loss of your brother, Marquetta Witt

Marquetta Witt - March 05, 2020 at 09:32 AM



Ferne! What a good friend she was to me! Thank you, Marquetta

Joe Herman - March 21, 2020 at 10:52 AM

RS

So sorry to hear of Ralph's passing; I did not know. We played in a group called H & M Powerhouse in high school. He was a great keyboard player. Sending prayers to family and friends

Ramona Smith - March 30 at 05:25 PM

JH

“ 7 files added to the album Family Memories



Judy Herman - February 28, 2020 at 07:25 PM

DL

“ Ralph was a very special man and a friend to everyone. I first met Ralph when he moved to the neighborhood and built a new mailbox stand complete with new mailboxes because everyone's mailbox was on a seperate post and he thought as he stated " we should ALL stand together". He continued to make this a better place to live. Everyone at "The end of the Holler" will surely miss him and we were all better off having him for a friend. Fly high Ralph, Soar with the eagles

Danny Langston - February 28, 2020 at 09:48 AM

JH

Thank you for sharing, Danny. We appreciate any and all stories as we celebrate the beauty of Ralph's life!

Judy Herman - February 28, 2020 at 09:56 AM

JH

“ I'm saddened that my brother-in-law left this world way too suddenly and early. He was the only one who could ground me with history and insight into my husband, Joe Herman. Ralph encouraged and loved me through our darkest times. He gave me truth when my world was falling apart. I miss you, brother. Loved how your light shined through your music; the chemistry you had with my brothers. Your appreciation for mom's prayers. You played waltzes so Joe & I could dance. You joined our family gatherings and made us laugh. We begged for more music and you played light-hearted Charlie Brown tunes. Wished we had more time to love and laugh and dance together. I'll always remember you saying, "Joe knows me more than anyone." Well this inspires me to stay close to my hubby and be known. I love you brother. Your spirit lives on, Ralph Herman.



Judy Herman - February 28, 2020 at 09:40 AM

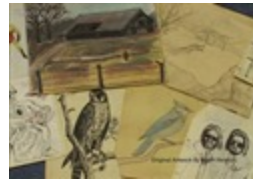
EC

“ One of the nicest people you could ever hope to meet.

Edward Copeland - February 28, 2020 at 08:28 AM



“ 7 files added to the album Memories Album



Tj Johnson - February 27, 2020 at 08:26 PM



“ I just spoke with my best friend growing up 7 days ago and learned of his illness. The positive attitude, courage and faith he projected while we spoke was amazing and to hear this today is heart-wrenching. But his faith was strong and we shall play music together again I truly believe. Love ya man... Tim Johnson



Tj Johnson - February 27, 2020 at 07:48 PM



“ I am heartbroken.... Ralph has been my friend, My barber, and flying cheerleader for me to finish my Pilot's License for many years. I got them, and just last week went and picked up a plane that he and I talked about me getting. I am sad we won't ever get to fly in it together. or in the challenger that he has been building. We talked about how much he couldn't wait to finish it to take it flying. I will miss our monthly conversations, but I will fly with Ralph in my heart and mind.
Rest In Peace, my friend.

Jay Westmoreland - February 27, 2020 at 06:16 PM

BS

“ *Ralph was such a great guy. I always loved being around him. We were team mates on our high school’s weightlifting team. Godspeed Ralph.*



Bob Smith - February 27, 2020 at 05:25 PM

SE

Grew up in the same neighborhood as Ralph and his brother Joe. So sorry to hear this news and prayers of comfort go out to his family.
Steve Ellis

steve-kay ellis - February 27, 2020 at 05:34 PM

DR

Ralph was a friend And such a character. He had a sense of humor you had to get to know but when you caught on... inner laughter exploded on the outside. As a musician, there is no doubt he was among the best. It was always an honor to work with Ralph. I'm saddened and will greatly miss knowing we share this world together. When we meet again, we'll send down heavenly music. I pray for peace and acceptance to his family and other loved ones.

Debbie Rhea - February 27, 2020 at 08:29 PM

AN

“ *Alecia Najarro lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Edward Herman*



Alecia Najarro - February 27, 2020 at 04:44 PM

AN

This world will never be the same without you my dear cousin. Your were so special in so many ways in our family your humor, talent, your love for animals and music, you always made us smile. My happiest memories are when we were together growing up figuring out what life had in store for us. I love you Cuz....forever.....

Alecia Najarro - February 27, 2020 at 05:04 PM

TA

“ *Ralph had been my barber for several years. I always enjoyed talking with him about his plane, and being a musician also, we knew a lot of the same people and I always enjoyed our conversations about music. Even though I knew he was not well, it was a shock to see his obituary. The family will be in my thoughts and prayers.*

Ted Austin - February 27, 2020 at 09:09 AM