



## Ralph John Niemeyer

November 5, 1941 - March 25, 2025

After a life well-lived, Ralph John Niemeyer, 83, of Bowling Green, MO sadly left our world on March 25th, 2025, at the Harry S. Truman VA Medical Center in Columbia, MO surrounded by family.

Ralph was born November 5th, 1941 to Harry and Viola (Geujen) Niemeyer at Pike County Memorial Hospital. A Bowling Green native, Ralph was a 1959 graduate from Bowling Green High School, where he excelled in basketball and track, and attended Missouri Valley College where he played basketball before joining the United States Navy in 1960. During his time in the Navy, he was stationed on the USS NORFOLK DL-1, the ship that served as the flagship commander of the South Atlantic forces. Ralph traveled to numerous different countries and ports throughout the Caribbean including Trinidad, Puerto Rico, Bermuda, and Cuba, as well as through Central and South America including Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, and the Straights of Magellan. He often reflected on his trips through the Panama Canal and what an amazing experience that was. He was also fortunate to have served on the same ship as his brother, Leroy, his childhood friend, Jack Haley, from Bowling Green, and Heisman trophy winner, Joe Bellino. In true Navy tradition, it was during this time that this sailor became a “Trusty Shellback” into the court of Neptune.

After his time in the Navy, Ralph worked in St. Louis for McDonnell Douglas at

St. Louis Lambert Field. After time in St. Louis, he returned to Bowling Green and began working for Bob Meyer, a local contractor. It was back home where he began dating his high school classmate, Mary Mark "Markie" Deters. On June 27th, 1964, Ralph and Markie married at St. Clement Catholic Church and they moved back to St. Louis where Markie was working as a registered nurse. A year later, they returned home to Bowling Green to begin their long and loving life together. Ralph worked for another contractor, C.T. Wendel, and Markie at Pike County Memorial Hospital. In July 1966, Ralph began employment with Missouri Edison Company, which would set the course of a long and successful career in the power and utility business. Initially a lineman, he learned the trade of providing electrical service rain or shine, wind, ice, etc. to the local area. He continued to grow in positions and responsibilities as Missouri Edison became part of Union Electric (UE) and ultimately Ameren corporation, a Fortune 500 company. After a nearly 35-year career, he retired from his position as the operations and construction supervisor for a very large service area and a leader of many employees.

As a young boy, Ralph spent much time on the farm of his aunt and uncle and it was there where he initially fell in love with the farming lifestyle and continued that love through the mentoring of his father-in-law, Clem V. Deters, Sr. and his brother-in-law, Clem V. Deters, Jr. During his teen years, he helped and worked at this parents' business, the well-known Niemeyer Brothers. In high school he assisted Dr. H.E. Wheatley, DVM, and further honed his farming skills as he was excellent at working with livestock. As he never lost the "farming bug", he bought his own farm in 1972 and managed to balance this endeavor with his full-time job. Over the years, the farming operation grew until he and Markie moved to their current location where they were able to build their dream home on a setting that was very near and dear to them.

Ralph was never one to be idle and was always active. He was involved with many organizations including the St. Clement Knights of Columbus, the

Jaycees, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks (B.P.O.E), where he served as the Exalted Ruler. He was also active with the Bowling Green Bobcat Boosters, serving as the president for many years during the 1980s. After retirement, he was an active leader of Quail Unlimited and other conservation and hunting advocacy organizations. Ralph loved the outdoors, especially spending time raising and training English Pointer and English Setter bird hunting dogs, culminating in 2024 when Ralph raised the National Bird Hunters Association (NBHA) state champion in the puppy division. Ralph also loved quail hunting with his friends, as well as fishing and spending time on the water in search of that next big crappie.

Ralph and Markie celebrated over 60 years of marriage. To this union, Ralph was the proud father of three children, Susan Ausfahl (Chuck), Mike Niemeyer (Amie), and Randall Niemeyer. Ralph was preceded in death by his parents, his two brothers, Leroy and Larry, his in-laws, Clem and Catherine Deters, and three brothers-in-law, Clem V. Deters, Jr., 2nd Lt. David S. Deters, and Gary Caplinger. He is survived by his wife and his three children, 6 grandchildren (Kerstie, Hayden, Madison, Mackenzie, Lexie, and Anna) and 4 great grandchildren (Hudson, Stella, Evie, and Hattie), and many other family members.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Tuesday, April 1st at 10:30 am at St. Clement Catholic Church. Burial will be in the St. Clement Cemetery. Visitation will be Tuesday, April 1st from 9:00 am 10:30 am at the church.

Serving as pallbearers will be Jack Glover, Ed "Arch" Jennings, Argil Ellison, Dr. Bill Wright, Chuck Ausfahl, Bruce Storts, Greg Renner. Honorary pallbearers will be Bonham Bibb, John Boise, Bob Niemeyer, Paul Niemeyer, Bob Wilson, Wayne Nierman, Lynn Cherry, and Jim Smith.

Memorials may be made to the family for dissemination to causes close to Ralph's heart.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Clement Cemetery

St. Clement, MO

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 1. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Clement Catholic Church  
21509 Hwy 161  
Bowling Green, MO 63334  
<http://www.stclementmo.org>

## Mass of Christian Burial

APR 1. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Clement Catholic Church  
21509 Hwy 161  
Bowling Green, MO 63334  
<http://www.stclementmo.org>

## Burial

APR 1 (CT)

St. Clement Cemetery  
St. Clement, MO



# Tribute Wall



“ William M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ralph John Niemeyer.

William M. - April 07, 2025 at 01:43 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Ralph John Niemeyer.



April 04, 2025 at 10:06 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ralph John Niemeyer.

April 04, 2025 at 10:06 AM



“ May the angels lead him into paradise, may the saints come out and welcome him and guide him to the Holy City the new and eternal Jerusalem. May he celebrate at the banquet of the Lord. My condolences on Ralph's passing. He will be missed.

Leslie Niemeyer - April 01, 2025 at 10:31 AM

JS

“ Julie, S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ralph John Niemeyer.

Julie, S. - March 31, 2025 at 11:50 PM

DB

“ Ralph was such a nice person. Always enjoyed our visits and Les and I appreciated the quail he brought us over the years and the nice visits with us.  
Rest in Peace....

Dorothy Brown - March 31, 2025 at 09:18 PM



“ Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of Ralph John Niemeyer.



March 31, 2025 at 08:52 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ralph John Niemeyer.



March 31, 2025 at 08:27 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ralph John Niemeyer.

March 31, 2025 at 08:27 AM



“ Robin, Richard, Todd, Susan, Nick, Lisa purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Ralph John Niemeyer.



Robin, Richard, Todd, Susan, Nick, Lisa - March 31, 2025 at 08:14 AM



“ The Pattons & Wordsworths purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ralph John Niemeyer.



The Pattons & Wordsworths - March 31, 2025 at 07:27 AM



“ Todd and Lori Sheerman and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ralph John Niemeyer.



Todd and Lori Sheerman and family - March 30, 2025 at 01:19 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ralph John Niemeyer.



March 29, 2025 at 08:16 PM



“ Kimberly Meyers purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Ralph John Niemeyer.



**Kimberly Meyers** - March 29, 2025 at 07:57 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ralph John Niemeyer.



March 29, 2025 at 03:02 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ralph John Niemeyer.

March 29, 2025 at 03:02 PM

SK

“ Susan King lit a candle in memory of Ralph John Niemeyer



Susan king - March 29, 2025 at 10:56 AM

ZE

“ Ralph was always a friendly and kind person to our family. May all of his family find peace knowing that he is in the arms of our wonderful Lord and Savior. Stephen, Zenda and family



Zenda - March 28, 2025 at 07:13 PM

DK

“ DeAnn Kenehan purchased the Lavender Reflect ions Spray for the family of Ralph John Niemeyer.



DeAnn Kenehan - March 28, 2025 at 05:32 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ralph John Niemeyer.



March 28, 2025 at 03:27 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ralph John Niemeyer.

March 28, 2025 at 03:27 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Ralph's passing. We are keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.  
With sympathy, Jean and Rick Volk

Jean Volk - March 28, 2025 at 02:47 PM



“ So sorry for your loss of a great man and friend. He gave my son, Bob, his first job working on the farm. Ralph taught him a lot and Bob loved working with him, but I think he (Bob) also had a love for Mary Marks good meals!! He will be missed by all who knew him.

Jane Ann McGeorge - March 28, 2025 at 11:55 AM



“ The Ausfahl & Haden family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Ralph John Niemeyer.



The Ausfahl & Haden family - March 28, 2025 at 11:10 AM

MV

“ *Mary, Jack, Bk McCann & James/Jon Vance purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Ralph John Niemeyer.*



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**Mary, Jack, Bk McCann & James/Jon Vance** - March 28, 2025  
at 10:57 AM

SA

“ *My sympathy goes to Randy and the Niemeyer family. Randy, I'm sorry to hear about the loss of your Dad. Many thoughts and prayers from the Albart family. Steve Albart*

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**Steve Albart** - March 28, 2025 at 08:11 AM

KT

“ *Kami Tippy purchased the Simply Elegant Spathi phyllum for the family of Ralph John Niemeyer.*



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**Kami Tippy** - March 28, 2025 at 08:04 AM

KT

“ *Kami Tippy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ralph John Niemeyer.*

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**Kami Tippy** - March 28, 2025 at 08:04 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Ralph John Niemeyer.*



March 27, 2025 at 09:39 PM



“ *The McKees! purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Ralph John Niemeyer.*



**The McKees!** - March 27, 2025 at 08:12 PM



“ *Chris & Kate Russell purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Ralph John Niemeyer.*



**Chris & Kate Russell** - March 27, 2025 at 06:02 PM



“ *Chris & Kate Russell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ralph John Niemeyer.*

**Chris & Kate Russell** - March 27, 2025 at 06:02 PM

BJ

“ Sorry for the family’s loss, sending our hugs and prayers



Bob Gish, Merle& Renee James - March 27, 2025 at 05:29 PM

BB

“ Life long friend, schoolmate, basketball, track and hangout buddy. Very shock to learn of his passing. He will be greatly missed!  
Boodie Brewer

Boodie Brewer - March 27, 2025 at 01:13 PM

DH

“ Always thought the world of him He will be missed by all

Don hamilton - March 27, 2025 at 12:24 PM

CA

“ So sorry to hear this. I was blessed to meet Mr. Niemeyer while out taking pictures of his beautiful barn with the sunflowers in bloom. Such a nice man! My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

Carolyn Allen - March 27, 2025 at 12:07 PM

CB

“ Heaven gained a quail hunter! Our deepest sympathies to all of the family from the Buntens.

Carl Buntten - March 27, 2025 at 11:07 AM

DE

“ So sorry for your loss. I knew Ralph for many years. He will be sadly missed God bless.



Deanie Ebers - March 27, 2025 at 10:39 AM

MG

May Ralph rest in peace and may his whole family feel God's love and comfort. 🙏🙏🙏

Mary Jane Grinstead - March 27, 2025 at 11:51 AM

EG

Our deepest sympathies to the family. Hugs to all, from Ernestine, Tim and Jimmy Grimmatt.

Ernestine Grimmatt - March 27, 2025 at 01:59 PM

MT

We sure will miss Ralph; his humor, his friendliness. One of a kind, for sure.

Mary and Larry Twellman - March 27, 2025 at 02:37 PM

JN

We shared common interests in conservation matters and worked many years with Ralph. Always dependable, trustworthy, and a Christian gentleman. Continue to shoot straight Ralph.  
Jerry and Flora Mae Northcutt

Jerry R. Northcutt/Flora Northcutt - March 27, 2025 at 06:27 PM

SM

Sorry for your family's loss

Sammy meyers - March 28, 2025 at 11:43 AM



*My condolences to Ralph's family. Prayers be with you.*

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**Charles Stroker** - March 28, 2025 at 11:52 AM



*Dear Markie and Family.*

*We were so saddened in hearing of your loss of our true friend, Ralph. Ralph, Ed and Dave's wonderful bird hunting trips over the years and our group dinners and birthday parties.*

*Thank you for the memories and making our lives richer for knowing the wonderful Niemeyer family.*

*David and Maureen Wommack*

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**Maureen Wommack** - March 28, 2025 at 12:29 PM