



## Raydell Ralph Mills

May 22, 1924 - January 17, 2019

Raydell Ralph Mills, age 94, of Traverse City passed away on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at Joy Givers Senior Living. Ray was born in Detroit on May 22, 1924 to the late Raydell and Cecil (Leighton) Mills, Sr. He married the love of his life Rita Jane Ward on July 7, 1943, in Monroe, Michigan. She preceded him in death on April 30, 2000.

Ray was a 1942 graduate of Cass Tech High School. He honorably served in the United States Army's 95th Infantry during World War II, where he earned a Purple Heart in Dortmund, Germany. Ray spent his career as a photo engraver and moved to Traverse City in 1982, from Darien, IL.

Ray was a member of American Legion Post 35, where he served as finance officer. He belonged to the DAV and the Purple Heart Foundation, and was honored locally as Veteran of the Year. Ray proudly served on the Cherryland V.F.W. Post 2780 Honor Guard. When not sharing detailed accounts of his time in the military, Ray enjoyed crossword puzzles and Sudoku.

Ray is survived by four children, Barbara (Dennis) Fedorinchik, Ralph (Peggy) Mills, Linda (John) Stephenson, Lori (Allan) Sanderson and a daughter-in-law, Beverly Mills, all of Traverse City. Also surviving at are thirteen grandchildren, Mark and Jeff Fedorinchik, Ryan (Erin) Fedorinchik, Keith (Sandy) Mills, Kelly (JT) Davis, Caroline (Greg) Haugen, Mike Stephenson, David (Kayla) Mills, Hilary (David) Vachon, Benjamin Mills, Scott Sanderson, Bryan (Karen) Sanderson, and Kathryn (Jacob) Maczynski; and fifteen great-grandchildren.

In addition to his wife and parents, Ray was preceded in death by a son, Richard Mills and a brother, Donald Mills.

A memorial service honoring Ray's life will take place at 11:00 a.m., with visitation starting at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 28, 2019 at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, 305 Sixth St., Traverse

City, MI 49684. Military Honors will be conducted under the auspices of the U.S. Army, Cherryland V.F.W. Post 2780 and American Legion Post 35. Burial of Ray's cremated remains will be at Fort Custer National Cemetery.

Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider a memorial donation to DAV, (Disabled American Veterans) or Joy Givers Senior Living.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with Ray's family at his tribute page at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>.

The family is being cared for by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

# Events

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**JAN**   **Visitation**                      10:00AM

**28**

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**JAN**   **Memorial Service**                      11:00AM

**28**

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

# Comments

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“ Dear Barbara You & Your Siblings have my Heartfelt Sorrow for the Death of Your Beloved Precious Father Ray. Isaiah 25:8.

**James Saunders** - February 17, 2019 at 11:38 AM

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“ To the Mills Family,

I am deeply sorry on the loss of your dad and grandfather. My parents and yours were great friends from their days in Detroit. They stayed friends over the years and when they relocated to TC, they would see each other when they came to see my family in TC. When mom passed in 2006 she joined your mom in Ft Custer. How ironic they were both buried in section M. They shared a lifetime of memories just as you all have. Dad and I moved to TC in 2012 and saw your dad a few times, we lost dad in December of 2015 and he joined mom in Ft Custer. You dad was a fun and kind gentle soul who will be missed.

Again my deepest sympathy to the family.

Susan Fritz

**susan fritz** - February 02, 2019 at 12:23 PM

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“ Dear Lori & Family,  
May your warm memories bring you comfort in the days ahead. Take care and feel the love & support I'm sending your way.



**Rose Overmyer** - January 28, 2019 at 04:01 PM

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“ Several of the ladies from Garfield Condominiums wanted to honor Raydell by attending his service tomorrow, however the freezing temperatures will keep them home bound. They have many memories of all that he did in their neighborhood.

**Ruth Quinn** - January 27, 2019 at 06:28 PM

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“ It has been my honor and privilege to have known Ralph. Such a vitally full and rich life he led as an admirable soldier, husband, dad, friend and beyond! I remember his Christmas cards began with “I hope this finds you well”, and he meant it! I recall him standing each time the American flag went by at the Cherry Festival Parade, which at the time taught me this valuable lesson of respect to our country. The manor in which he cared for his dear wife, Rita, displayed true love like no other. Most of all, he blessed me with my life-long friend Lorraine. For that, I am eternally grateful. RIP dear man, until we meet again. With Love, Candace

**Candace Jacques** - January 20, 2019 at 07:35 PM

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“ Dear Lori, Al, and family,

So sorry to hear the loss of your dad. He was a great father and friend, and always fun to be around and laugh with. He had a good sense of humor will be greatly missed. May he Rest In Peace, and be remembered for his service to our country. Always in our hearts.

Love,

The Catlin's  
Bill, Sara, and Emily

**William** - January 20, 2019 at 02:51 PM

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“ We were greatly saddened to learn of Ray’s passing. He was our neighbor on Hemingway Lane for 19 years. A kind man, he was always available to everyone with a helping hand or a useful suggestion. We enjoyed our talks with him and learning about his experiences during the war. Through his devotion and dedication to his country, he truly represented the best of “The Greatest Generation.” Ray will be missed by his friends and neighbors. Our sincere condolences to his family.

Bev & Bob Schwenter  
(Wintering in Alabama)

**Bev & Bob Schwenter** - January 19, 2019 at 12:29 PM