

# Ralph LeRoy Pilkenton Jr.

MARCH 11, 1948 – JANUARY 30, 2021

Ralph Leroy Pilkenton Jr. nicknamed Dorky by his grandmother, received his calling to return home on January 30, 2021.



Ralph was born in Barstow, California, the middle son to Ralph Leroy Pilkenton Sr. and Henrietta Pilkenton. Ralph is a Barstow High School graduate and worked for Santa Fe Railroad and BNSF Railway where he ended his career #1 on the Old Arizona after 42 years of service.

A purple heart recipient and a loyal patriot, Ralph proudly served his country as a United States Marine, in the 3rd Battalion 26th Marine Regiment. During his tour of duty, Ralph fought in the deadliest battle of the Vietnam War, the Siege of Khe Shan's Tet Offensive. Where he later received a Presidential Unit Citation, for heroism in action against an armed enemy.

Upon returning home, Ralph married his high school sweetheart Charlene, and they had 3 children.

Ralph is preceded in death by his parent's Ralph Leroy Pilkenton Sr. and Henrietta Pilkenton, his oldest brother Ronald "Ronnie" Moran and his only nephew Randy Pilkenton.

Ralph leaves behind his loving wife of 50 years, Charlene Pilkenton, his twin daughters Evelyn Hawes (Danny), Evette Sallee (Brian) and his son Jason Pilkenton. His youngest brother Randy Pilkenton, sister -n- law Diane Moran and 5 beautiful nieces.

Of all of Ralph's cherished possessions in this life, his most treasured were the ones who named him Poppa, he leaves behind Danya Muir (Jaccob) and their children, Jackson, Venice and Ralphie Grace, Shelby Hawes and her son Myles, Dallas Hawes, Taylor Sallee, Ashley Dyer (Jacob) and their daughter Poppy Leigh to be born in March, and Travis Sallee.

Poppa always told his grandbabies, remember this and you will be successful in this life. "I've built my home on God, Country and Family. Luck favors the Brave! Semper Fidelis."

A Funeral Mass will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church on March 2, 2021 at 10:30 AM.

Internment to follow at Mt. View Memorial Park, Barstow, CA.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.meadcares.com](http://www.meadcares.com) for the Pilkenton family.

- **PALLBEARERS**
- Danny Hawes

- Dallas Hawes
- Jaccob Muir
- Jason Pilkenton
- Brian Sallee
- Travis Sallee