

## Ralph Louis Burtis

June 5, 2020

Ralph Louis Burtis, 71 died Friday, June 5, 2020 in his Wellington home surrounded by the love of his wife, Susanne and his children, Ryan & Sarah.

Born and raised on Long Island, NY, the son of Ben and Grace (Dornhoefer) Burtis. He remained there until 2018, when he relocated his family to Wellington, Colorado.

From a young age Ralph spent his time on the water sailing, boating and fishing. After graduating from George W. Hewlett High School he attended Southampton college for two years until being drafted during the Vietnam War era. He served in the United States Army from 1970 until 1972 in Germany.

After serving in the Army, he returned to New York, where he helped run and eventually took over the family plumbing, heating & air conditioning business, Haller & Burtis which later became Comfort Specialists. He would eventually sell that business and start Island Charters, a salt water fly fishing guide service. Several years later in his 50's he built a successful business, R.L. Burtis Enterprises, Inc. which provided commercial and residential plumbing, heating & air conditioning services in the New York, tri-state area.

Ralph was a devoted husband and father, a hard working business owner and always found time to balance the two. He was always up for a challenge and

there was never a problem he couldn't solve. He had an endless thirst for knowledge which he would share with anyone willing to listen.

Ralph was diagnosed with kidney and prostate cancer in 2003. He would continue to battle various cancers for the next 17 years until 2020 when the combination of stage 4 renal cancer and leukemia would take his life.

No funeral service will be held, due to Covid-19. There will be a private burial at Fort Logan Cemetery on June 9th.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Ralph to Trout Unlimited: <https://gifts.tu.org/donate2?ms=MWL-WFO-WUNREST-S>.

# Cemetery Details

**Fort Logan National Cemetery**

# Tribute Wall



“ It was with a heavy, heavy heart that I just learned of Ralph's death from a fellow fishing friend. Ralph and I were very close when he lived in New York. He taught me everything I know about fishing Jamaica Bay. We had so many memorable days on the water together. Ralph was so incredibly generous with his time and his teaching. Anytime I had the itch to get out and fish, he was happy to accommodate. We caught striped bass and bluefish all over Jamaica Bay. We had some epic trips up in the New York Harbor - the largest striped bass I've ever caught on fly was under the Verrazano Narrows Bridge on Ralph's boat. We even caught mako sharks on fly off New Jersey. Perhaps the one gift I gave him in return was to encourage him to get his captain's license and to start his guide business. I designed the sales brochure for his guiding service. He knew more about our local waters than any of the other pros out there, and I was happy to see him get the acknowledgment he deserved as a professional guide. The last time I saw Ralph, I had the pleasure of taking him out on my boat for the first and only time. Alas, we didn't catch fish that day, but it was such a joy to reconnect with him after many years. Ralph's appreciation of nature, the beauty of the ocean and our bays, and the spiritual importance of the outdoors were unparalleled. He could be salty and stern, but he was a gentle soul on the inside. I will miss you Ralph.



Luyen Chou - April 05, 2023 at 01:18 PM



“ *Ralph Louis Burtis*

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October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Ralph was the kindest man I ever met and glad to call him my friend. Biggest regret is not to have fished with him one last time. Capt. Scott Holder*

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**Scott Holder** - June 25, 2020 at 11:14 AM



“ *For as long as I can remember it was Ralph, Chris and I. We grew up swimming, skiing, searching for salamanders, and just “looking for trouble”. From playing king of the dock to races on the lake and beyond – we had fun. We grew up and life went on and the three of us were no longer a team but cousins creating our own families.*

*Ralph, you have always been there for me and I know you always will be there just not in a way that I can reach out and hear back with a text or a phone call. No, I can talk to you, as I do frequently, and I know you hear me. I miss you already, so very, very much! You are home now though, and you can hang with the best of them.*

*Love you forever and beyond!*

*Your cousin- Madelyn*

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**Madelyn Wisby** - June 09, 2020 at 09:14 AM

PF

“ 2 files added to the album Remembering Ralph



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Paul Fauci - June 08, 2020 at 12:12 PM

PF

“ Dear Ralph Burtis Family,  
It is with a heavy heart that we express our deepest condolences with the passing of Ralph Burtis.  
The wonderful memories are continually mindful of my time spent with Ralph who I also termed “Captain Ralph” whenever we spoke to one another.  
When time permitted, I got to experience the many years of passion to be on the water and to be fishing next to a great sportsman with incredible knowledge.  
The photo’s attached are what I hold dearly with my relationship with “Captain Ralph” and what I always shared with my family and friends that knew him through my bragging after a day of fishing. I was also incredibly grateful to had shared a business side to the relationship for decades as well. The level of expertise brought to his jobs would resonate from customer to customer. “A TRUE CRAFTSMAN AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL”!  
God bless the Burtis family. Our hearts and prayers are with you Susan, Sarah and Ryan, the family meant the world to him.

Sincerely,  
Paul Fauci and Family

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Paul Fauci - June 08, 2020 at 11:54 AM

KB

“ Not only was Ralph an amazing man but he was also my uncle. I have many memories going back to my childhood of fun and happy times we shared together. He could teach you how to catch a fish and sail a boat to everything else in between. He was always available to help with a problem or a project with expert advice. I am blessed to have had many of those conversations with him in the last year or so and he will be missed .. I love you uncle . Rest in peace.....

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Kevin burtis - June 07, 2020 at 05:42 PM

SB

“ 10 files added to the album Remembering Ralph



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Sarah Burtis - June 07, 2020 at 12:53 AM

DS

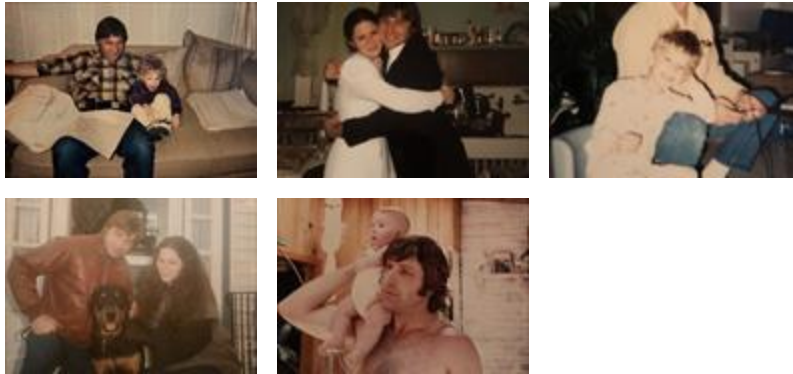
“ We're in Florida now, but back in the day we were neighbors In Lynbrook. A sweet memory of Ralph is when it snowed and he would get out his snow blower and help us dig ourselves out. It may not sound like a special memory, but it speaks volumes about Ralph's character. He was a good, kind, generous and friendly man who will be sorely missed. Popping in by Ralph and Susan meant a good hour of talking and laughing. Our prayers are with you Susan, Sarah and Ryan.

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Debbie & Joe Santostefano - June 06, 2020 at 08:24 PM

SB

“ 7 files added to the album Memories Album



Sarah Burtis - June 06, 2020 at 06:06 PM

SB

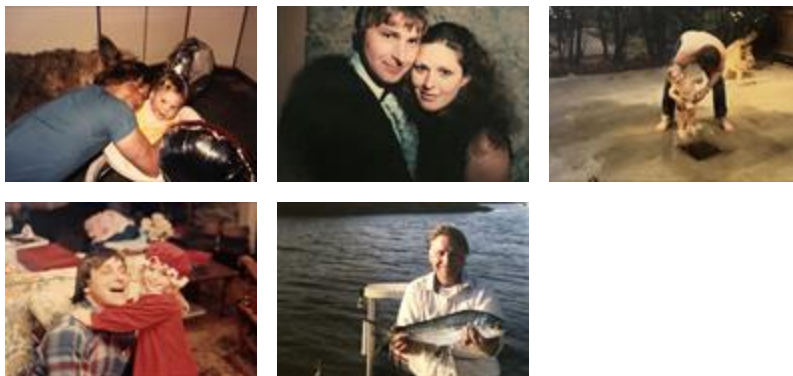
“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Sarah Burtis - June 06, 2020 at 05:51 PM

SB

“ 13 files added to the album Remembering Ralph



Sarah Burtis - June 06, 2020 at 05:45 PM