



## Captain Raymond F. Kuhel Jr. DDS

January 7, 1950 - January 18, 2024

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Raymond F. Kuhel Jr., a beloved brother, uncle, and esteemed dentist for the United States Navy. Raymond peacefully departed this world on January 18, 2024, in Virginia Beach, VA, where he had made his home.

Raymond was born on January 7, 1950, in Cleveland, OH, to the late Raymond F. Kuhel Sr. and Elizabeth (Brink). He leaves behind his sister Sandra Stilin (Eric), brother Bernard J. Kuhel, nieces Terri Olix (Justin) and Kelly Stoneman (Kenneth), and his cherished great-nieces and great-nephews, Janelle, Devin Olix, Kenneth, Koen, and Kyler Stoneman.

Raymond's life was marked by a passion for dentistry and dedicated service to his country. After obtaining his Bachelor's Degree, he pursued his dream of becoming a dentist, graduating from The Ohio State University with a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree. Raymond's career in the United States Navy spanned an impressive 28 years, during which he faithfully served as a dentist, ultimately achieving the rank of Captain.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Raymond had a zest for life. He enjoyed spending leisurely days fishing, hunting, and playing golf. An avid sports enthusiast, he was particularly passionate about cheering for his beloved OSU football team. Above all, Raymond treasured quality time spent

with his family, friends, and neighbors, creating lasting memories filled with laughter and warmth.

A celebration of Raymond's remarkable life will be held in Virginia Beach at a later date, allowing friends and loved ones to come together and honor his memory in a fitting tribute.

In addition, funeral services will be conducted on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at Monreal Srnick Funeral Home, 35400 Curtis Blvd, Eastlake, with visitation starting at 9:30 am followed by a funeral service at 10:30 am. His final resting place will be at Whitehaven Memorial Park.

Raymond will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. His kindhearted nature, remarkable achievements, and unwavering dedication to both his profession and his loved ones will forever leave an indelible imprint on our hearts.

# Cemetery Details

## **Whitehaven Memorial Park**

615 Som Center Road  
Mayfield, OH 44143

# Tribute Wall

MS

“ Thankful for the many memories often by the sea and with a deck below our feet. The meals we enjoyed, the camaraderie and especially the laughter. We will miss you.  
Forever Our Shipmate, May the seas lie calm before you. With much love, Paul & Marty  
- Captain Paul & Marta Schmid



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**Marta (Marty) Cavazos Schmid** - January 30, 2024 at 10:55 AM

TF

“ The Olix Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Captain Raymond F. Kuhel Jr. DDS.



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**The Olix Family** - January 29, 2024 at 01:00 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Captain Raymond F. Kuhel Jr. DDS.



January 29, 2024 at 09:06 AM



“ Toby Taylor planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Captain Raymond F. Kuhel Jr. DDS.

**Toby Taylor** - January 29, 2024 at 09:06 AM



“ Ray was one of the good guys. The really good guys. He was among that handful of people you meet in your lifetime that earned a special kind of respect and friendship. All our lives are better because of Ray. He was a unique and special man. None better.  
Tom and Laura Faull

**Tom Faull** - January 29, 2024 at 08:39 AM



“ Captain and Mrs James L Frazier purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Captain Raymond F. Kuhel Jr. DDS.



**Captain and Mrs James L Frazier** - January 28, 2024 at 12:43 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Captain Raymond F. Kuhel Jr. DDS.*



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January 28, 2024 at 10:30 AM



“ *From Delia Mandia and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Captain Raymond F. Kuhel Jr. DDS.*



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**From Delia Mandia and Family** - January 26, 2024 at 02:33 PM



“ *Captain Paul & Marta Schmid purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Captain Raymond F. Kuhel Jr. DDS.*



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**Captain Paul & Marta Schmid** - January 26, 2024 at 11:19 AM



“ Fifty four years ago two young studs from Cleveland found our seats the first day of orientation at The Ohio State University College of Dentistry. It was 1970, the Vietnam war was raging, students were revolting, campuses were burning...and we had to wear neck ties and sit in alphabetical order. Go figure. Ray was 'Kuhel; I was Kvaska. Alphabetical... Destiny. We sat next to each other for four tough years, bartended together, attended every home Buckeye game together, joined the Navy together, went to the Philippines together and served together 3 more times at Jacksonville, Norfolk and Bethesda. After his retirement and later mine, we continued on golf and fishing trips, and regardless of where we were in the world, watched every Buckeye game together, either in person or via text/phone throughout the game. Ray lived larger than life and had multiple 'tribes'- his hunting group, his fishing group, his Navy group, his gym group and his Virginia Beach neighborhood group. Between us all, we could fill volumes of Ray stories and I look forward to a Celebration of Life event when it makes sense. The idea that two blue collar kids from Cleveland would see the world and retire as Navy Captains was beyond comprehension that first day together. For now, Colleen and I mourn the loss of someone who lived life on his terms, lifted everyone in his presence, and was my dearest friend. Colleen and Greg Kvaska



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**Greg Kvaska** - January 23, 2024 at 09:31 PM

MW

“ I consider myself blessed to have never moved and grown up in the same house. I consider myself even more blessed to have grown up next to an incredible neighbor-- Mr. Kuhel. Mr. Kuhel was more than just a neighbor, he was family, but that only seems natural considering he watched my brothers and I grow up, from the day we took our first steps to the day we drove out of the cul-de-sac for our first year of college. Ray Dog was my first employer, hiring me whenever he would go out of town to pick up his mail and water his plants. What to him was just a few spare dollars out of his pocket, was to me an opportunity to feel trusted and learn responsibility. When I think of Mr. Kuhel, I think of a smiling face. Unless the Buckeyes had lost, I honestly cannot think of a time I ever truly saw him unhappy. He was the life of the party, whether at a neighborhood gathering or on the dance floor at our weddings. We know that our life here on earth is only temporary, but that does not make saying goodbye any easier. Ray Dog, you will be missed. You will be missed on our float days by the pool, at our 4th of July and neighborhood gatherings, but most of all you will be missed waving hello from your favorite lawn chair in your garage, a daily ritual that I took for granted but that I will forever hold dear. Thank you for being such a kind-hearted, steadfast neighbor. Our loss is heaven's gain-- heaven gained one of the best.

-- Madeline (Colthorpe) Watrous

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**Madeline Watrous** - January 23, 2024 at 08:16 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Captain Raymond F. Kuhel Jr. DDS.



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January 23, 2024 at 06:05 PM

WC

“ Capt Kuhel, Raydog, was a long time friend to my family and watched me, my brother and sister grow up. He attended all our weddings, graduations and never missed a party at our house. I spent many afternoons in our pool with Mr Kuhel and I will deeply miss his infectious laugh and corny golf jokes he always would come prepared with. Mr Kuhel loved music, and I would always try to stump him with “who sang this” questions, yet he always knew the answer. Some of my most recent memories will be my fondest. He provided my oath of office for my recent military commission in May 2023 and at my wedding in October 2023 he danced for everyone with big smile in his face and captain morgan in hand to his favorite song - “Southern Cross.” Raydog, I am glad I got to see you on Christmas eve to say - what would be - my last goodbye. You will forever be in the hearts and minds of my family. May you rest easy with unlimited Rum, Diet Coke, Ohio State and classic rock up in heaven. Thank you for being such a good friend to us all.  
- William Colthorpe



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William Colthorpe - January 23, 2024 at 03:56 PM