



Raymond G. Sterk

May 27, 1929 - January 11, 2026

Raymond “Ray” G. Sterk, age 96, passed away peacefully on January 11, 2026, in Amherst.

Ray was born on May 27, 1929, in Lorain, Ohio. He lived a long and full life, marked by dedication to his family, service to his country, and a strong work ethic.

Ray proudly served his country during the Korean War and treasured the lifelong friendships he formed with his Army buddies, enjoying time spent together sharing memories and camaraderie over the years. Following his military service, Ray spent his entire career at the Lorain Telephone Company, where he rose to the position of supervisor.

A true handyman, Ray could fix just about anything, from televisions and radios to household and business projects. He enjoyed beekeeping, gardening, and collecting stamps and coins, and took great pride in caring for his plants, both indoors and outdoors. Ray was also active in the community as the Brownhelm Santa and served as a Cub Scout leader.

Above all, Ray cherished his family. He was deeply devoted to his wife, Shirley (Sterna) Sterk, with whom he shared 72 years of marriage. Together, they embarked on many business adventures and enjoyed traveling

throughout the United States and abroad. Ray especially loved Shirley's cooking and enjoyed it right up until the end of his life. He also treasured family visits and meaningful conversations, always taking time to connect with those he loved.

Alongside his wife Shirley, Ray owned and operated several family businesses, including Papa Joe's Pizza, Granny Joe's, Sterk's Catering, Sterk's Restaurant, Mama Joe Pies, Just Pies, and the Brick Yard Bar and Grill, which are now all proudly operated by their children.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents, Peter and Mary Sterk, his siblings, Robert Sterk and Lillian Canary, and an infant daughter who passed away at birth.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Shirley Sterk; his children Deanna Tansey of Wakeman, Peter Sterk of Mount Gilead, Johanna (Jeff) Mann of Wakeman, Raymond (Kris) Sterk Jr. of Wakeman, Natalie (Wayne) Baumann of Amherst, and John (Shelly) Sterk of Wakeman; as well as his 13 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren, all of whom brought him great joy.

Ray lived a good life and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

No services are planned at this time.

Cemetery Details

Brownhelm Cemetery

North Ridge Rd & Sunnyside Rd
Vermilion, OH 44089

Tribute Wall

AB

“ *Fly High With The Angels* ”



Amy Jaynes Brown - January 16 at 07:16 PM