



Van Raymond Stewart

September 6, 1948 - February 26, 2025

Van Raymond Stewart, age 76, passed away peacefully Wednesday, February 26, 2025 surrounded by his family. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Van was born on September 6, 1948 in Columbus, Ohio, the son of the late Rolland R. [Dick] and Mary Lou (Kessler) Stewart. He was preceded in death by his parents and infant sister Anna Marie, sister-in-law Catherine A. (Raphael) Griffin, and brother-in-law Anthony T. Raphael. Van is survived by his beloved wife of over 54 years Mary Martha [Marty] (Raphael) Stewart, sons Todd A. (Madonna) and Matthew R. (Betsy) Stewart; grandchildren Mara, Matthew (Monica), Alena, Cedric, and Lyla; brother-in-law Donald H. Griffin, sister-in-law Carol L. (Bussard) Raphael, dear cousin Sheila (Kessler) Marsh (Chuck), nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Van had a devout and deep lifelong faith, and was a member of Saint Joan of Arc Parish in Powell, where he was a lector and Eucharistic Minister. Previously, Van and Marty were long-time members of Saint Anthony Parish in Columbus.

After earning his bachelor's degree in education from Ohio Dominican College and while serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserves, Van began his career as a Biology and Latin teacher and football, basketball, and baseball coach serving at his High School alma mater, Saint Charles Preparatory School, Bishop Ready High School, and Franklin Heights High School, all in

Columbus. He earned a Master's in Education from Xavier University and was principal of Saint Anthony Elementary School in Columbus. After leaving the education field, Van became a Life and Health Underwriter and underwriting executive at Nationwide Insurance and Motorists Insurance in Columbus while completing graduate studies in Life and Health Insurance Underwriting. After retirement, Van enjoyed working for the grounds crew at Safari Golf Club in Powell.

Van enjoyed golf, poker, Ohio State football and basketball, and his Roman Catholic faith and its history. But most of all, Van cherished his two sons and five grandchildren, attending as many of their sporting events, recitals, plays, musicals, competitions, and accomplishments as he could. His travels to support his family took him around Ohio and across the country and his grandchildren would frequently see their biggest fan, 'Papaw,' in the front row. He and Marty also traveled the globe and cherished their pilgrimages to the Holy Land and Italy.

Van was a faithful friend. He organized reunions and kept in touch with friends around the country. He was the one who would always reach out when a friend needed something or even just to say hi and catch up on what they had done last week. He will especially miss his closest friend of 70 years, Jack Miceli.

Van's family wishes to express their appreciation to the doctors and nurses at Mount Carmel St. Anne's Hospital in Westerville. They gave Van the best chance that they could at recovery. As was often the case in Van's life, however, Van followed God's plans for him and we are grateful that Van's mission and ministry are complete and he has returned home.

Visitation and prayer service to celebrate Van's life will be held on Sunday, March 9, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell, 450 West Olentangy Street, Powell, Ohio. Mass of Christian Burial will be

Celebrated on Monday, March 10 at 11:00 a.m. at Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 10700 Liberty Road South in Powell.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests you donate in Van's name to the Stewart Family Fund, which supports scholarships at Saint Francis DeSales High School and other schools and charities at [https://www.iphiview.com/tcf/GiveNow/GiveOnline/tabid/838/dispatch/contribution_id\\$64341_hash\\$3472c0dc435ed80adbc945a9fb4eb27733a6d4e0/Default.aspx](https://www.iphiview.com/tcf/GiveNow/GiveOnline/tabid/838/dispatch/contribution_id64341_hash3472c0dc435ed80adbc945a9fb4eb27733a6d4e0/Default.aspx) or the Tunnels to Towers Foundation at <https://t2t.org>.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

9571 North High Street
Lewis Center, OH 43035

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **9**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell
450 West Olentangy Street
Powell, OH 43065
(614) 792-1471
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR **10**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church
10700 Liberty Road
Powell, OH 43065
<http://www.stjoanofarcpowell.org/>

Tribute Wall

EM

“ Although I didn't get to know Van really well, I had the privilege of traveling to the Holy Land and Rome with Marty, Van and 20 other pilgrims in 2019. have very fond memories of that trip, especially on the boat in the Sea of Galilee and Rome/Assisi. Van was always very cordial, fun and managed a big smile. Rest peacefully, Van.



Elaine Murray - March 09, 2025 at 09:58 AM

RV

“ A great neighbor, friendly and good listener and who would share many thoughts and engage in great conversations on any topic under the sun. Our thoughts and prayers are with bereaved members of Van's family and may his soul rest in peace. - Ram and Poorna.

Ramanatham Vedantam - March 06, 2025 at 10:12 PM

CJ

“ Clint & Alana Jeffries purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Van Raymond Stewart.



Clint & Alana Jeffries - March 06, 2025 at 02:05 PM

DW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Vans family. He worked with my sister at Motorist Insurance Company and was always good to include us to the sporting events whenever he could. He enjoyed getting people together who enjoyed the games, each other's company and camaraderie. We truly appreciated his kindness and generosity. So sorry for your loss.

Debra White - March 06, 2025 at 10:05 AM

SS

Marty, Matt and Family. Peace go with you all at this time. May Van rest in peace. God Bless 🙏

Sue Smith - March 09, 2025 at 05:36 PM



“ Mimi and family, I am so sorry to learn of Van's passing. Prayers and love to you and family.

Karen Michael - March 04, 2025 at 10:46 PM

JR

“ Van I'll miss seeing you at church an on the golf course. Till the next time we meet.

Best Regards,

Juan Ribot & Family

Juan Ribot - March 04, 2025 at 09:24 AM

TD

“ *Van you will be greatly missed by all of us at Safari Golf Club.
Condolences to the Stewart Family.*
Ty Day

Ty Day - March 03, 2025 at 11:38 PM

DS

“ *David Soltis purchased the Beautiful in Blue for
the family of Van Raymond Stewart.*



David Soltis - March 03, 2025 at 06:48 PM

PS

“ *So sorry to hear the news of Van's passing. Condolences to family
and friends*

*Paul Stagani
Safari Golf Club*

Paul Stagani - March 03, 2025 at 12:51 PM

CM

“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,*

May your memories of Van Raymond Stewart, give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten...

*My thoughts
and prayers to the family of*

US Marine Veteran, Van Raymond Stewart, is “A True American Hero” God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †

Cheryl J Skinner Tri-State Military Muse - March 03, 2025 at 06:19 AM

MC

“ *Van was an outstanding Head Coach of Matt's St. Anthony 8th Grade Basketball Team! I am glad he asked me to assist. Great days!!!*

Mike Connor

mike connor - March 02, 2025 at 05:36 AM

TS

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Todd Stewart - March 01, 2025 at 09:30 AM