



Ramond Myrl Giles

April 22, 1922 - January 4, 2020

Ramond Myrl Giles (Age 97) passed away on Saturday, January 4, 2020, at the age of 97. He was born in Sprague, WA on April 22, 1922, the youngest of six children born to Elvin and Flora Mae Giles. Ray spent his “wonder years” in the small town of Pine City. After graduating from Garfield H.S in 1940 he enrolled at Eastern Washington College of Education in Cheney where he met his wife of 72 years, Carolyn Polenske of Edwall. Their dating began during Carolyn’s sophomore year while Ray was awaiting a call from the Army pilot flight school. In 1942 Ray got his call, received military flight training, and graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. He was sent to the South Pacific where he flew and survived 52 missions as a WWII P-38 fighter pilot. Ray spent a total of four years of active duty during wartime and another twenty in the Air Force Reserve and retired from the military in 1966 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. During his time of service, he received a number of awards and citations including the Silver Star Medal and the Air Medal. After the war, Ray returned to Eastern, married his college sweetheart, finished his B.A. in Education, and received his Flight Instructor Rating and Ground School Certificate. He ended up teaching flying at the college for the next three years. Then in 1949, he took a leave of absence from Eastern and traveled east with Carolyn to Long Island, New York where he studied at New York University and received a Master’s Degree in Safety Education. After completing his Master’s program Ray returned to Eastern where he put his degree to good use by developing The Washington Driver’s Education

Teacher's Program. He and Carolyn decided to make Cheney their home and Ray spent his next 36 years raising a family and working for the college. In addition to teaching, he was also active in many professional organizations and spent his last 30 years in administration as Eastern's Director of Career Planning and Placement. In 2013 Ray traveled to Washington D.C. with the "Honor Flight Network" as a top priority World War II survivor. He was honored as part of a group of rapidly disappearing men who courageously stepped forward at a time when the future of our nation's existence was truly threatened. Ramond, Ray, Dad, Grandpa, Lieutenant Colonel, thank you for your sacrifice. For this and for all that you were, you will be missed. May you rest in peace. Ray is survived by his wife Carolyn and his three children Robin Dvorak (Dennis), Laurie Suess (Randy) of Cheney and Barry Giles (Amina) of Spokane, and by six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. Ramond will be laid to rest during a small private family service at the Washington State Veteran's Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

KB

“ *Mr. Giles as we called him was a great dad on the block. I know I did or said stupid things.
He had a great deal of patience. Bless him for that.
I also learned some basics about the Air Force from him. His P38 ashtray.
A good good man who helped us from before starting school through college.
Best to Robin, Barry, and Laurie families.
Special love to Carolyn. A great mom .PS drink your six glasses of water.
Kevin Brooks*

Kevin Brooks - February 29, 2020 at 10:36 PM

PA

“ *We are so sorry to hear of Ray's passing. Ray hired me as his assistant in the EWU Placement Office in 1966. I was always grateful and learned a great deal working with him. He was an intelligent leader, a kind friend, and a good man. We thank him for his contributions to this world that make it a much better place.
Skip and Pat Amsden*

Pat Amsden - January 21, 2020 at 06:04 PM

JA

“ What a wonderful man, friend and boss he was, the best boss I ever had. Your mom and he were the cutest couple and we were friends all these years. even though the phone calls had to end. They treated the kids and me like family and the lake was our favorite place to go when on vacation. Ray didn't teach me to ski but he sure pulled me around the lake many times. Know you are sad to lose him but know he had a good life and you had a great dad.

Love,
Joanne Ator

Joanne Ator - January 16, 2020 at 05:23 PM

HP

“ What a wonderful life you and Ray had together, Carolyn. Cheney is a place full of memories for me. I suppose we first met when you were my Fifth Grade teacher, What a breath of fresh air you were. My husband passed away last March. Not an easy time but friends, family, and memories help. My thoughts are with you and your family. Harriet Dressler Plucker

Harriet Plucker - January 13, 2020 at 07:05 PM

DL

“ Thank you for service & may you now Rest In Peace. Respectfully,
Dave & Laura True

Dave & Laura - January 09, 2020 at 04:54 PM