



## Roger Leonard Murphy Jr.

February 29, 1940 - August 4, 2020

Roger Leonard Murphy, Jr., age 80 from Newburg, Maryland died August 4, 2020 in California, Maryland. He was born on February 29, 1940 (a leap year baby) in La Plata, Maryland to Roger Leonard and Myrtle Valerie Murphy. In addition to his parents, he was also predeceased by two of his sisters, Leonardine V. Norris and Katherine M. Boarman.

He is survived by his siblings, Joseph R. Murphy (Cathy) and Benjamin T. Murphy (Peppi) of Newburg, Maryland, Mary L. Estevez (Don) of Lexington Park, Maryland, and David F. Murphy (Sarah) of Las Vegas, Nevada; and numerous family, friends, and classmates.

Roger graduated from Archbishop Neale High School in 1958. During his school years, he developed an aptitude for photography and was always seen with his 'brownie' camera – this grew to be an avocation in his adult life where he took photos for hundreds of weddings, birthdays, church functions, anniversaries, and other special events in and around Southern Maryland and the DC area. In his travels, after taking so many pictures, if you ran into him out and about his favorite saying was, “I bet I’ve flashed you.”

He began his career with Blue Cross Blue Shield in DC until he joined the U.S. Army in December 1959 with friends under the “buddy system.” He received his basic training in Ft. Jackson, South Carolina and was then transferred to Schweinfurt, Germany where he remained until the end of his tour. While in Germany, he traveled extensively and remained in touch with many he met over the years. In 1962 he returned to the States and resumed his career at Blue Cross. In 1974, Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of Rosslyn, Virginia employed him where he remained until his retirement in 2001.

Roger’s early years were spent with his family on Mt. Victoria Road and after graduation he lived in the DC area until he returned to Charles County in 1990. He continued to travel during his lifetime and enjoyed taking family members on trips all over the U.S. His travels included Alaska, Central Europe, and New Zealand – always traveling with family and friends. He was always interested in family genealogy and hosted a number of family reunions at the family farms over the years. He could not go without meeting up with a

fellow cousin around the county. He was equally welcoming to all who knew him and always had friends and family visiting and spending time with him. For many years, he hosted the reunion of his ANS High School class. He was particularly fond of his nieces and nephews whom he mentored and/or assisted whenever he could. Roger was an active member of Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Issue and a member of the American Legion.

Visitation on Thursday, August 20, 2020 from 9:30AM until Mass of Christian Burial at 11AM at Holy Ghost Issue Catholic Church, 15848 Rock Point Road, Newburg, Maryland 20664. Interment to follow at 12:45PM at St. Mary's Newport Catholic Church Cemetery, 11555 St. Mary's Church Road, Charlotte Hall, Maryland 20622.

Pall Bearers: J. R. Murphy, Leonard Murphy, James Boarman, Gregory Radcliff, Tony Estevez, and Donnie Estevez. Honorary Pall Bearers: B. J. Shymansky, Ben Murphy, and Steven Norris, III.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Charles County (2505 Davis Road, Waldorf, Maryland 20603) or Hospice of St. Mary's (PO Box 625, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650).

# Cemetery

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## St. Mary's Church Cemetery at Newport

11555 St. Mary's Church Road  
Charlotte Hall, MD, 20622

# Events

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**AUG** **Visitation** 09:30AM - 11:00AM

**20**

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Holy Ghost Catholic Church Issue  
15848 Rock Point Road, Newburg, MD, US,  
20664

**AUG** **Mass of Christian Burial** 11:00AM

**20**

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Holy Ghost Catholic Church Issue  
15848 Rock Point Road, Newburg, MD, US,  
20664

# Comments

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“ I am Charlotte L. Wilkening, 91 years and counting, and I have shared 62 years of friendship with Roger. In the true sense of friendship, I consider him to have been my lifetime "Best" friend.

Our worlds met when Roger came to work at Blue Cross just after graduating from high school in 1958. Despite my being eleven years older and having more educational and work experiences, it never seemed to matter, and a respect in the work place, as well as personal character began to develop a relationship that never wavered.

I was a newlywed at the time and Roger became friends with my small family -- my mother, a niece, and my husband, Mark. Roger became family and was included in almost all aspects of our lives -- be they small or large.

I want to cite only one event which epitomizes the meaning of true friendship: On the evening of June 18, 1991, my husband, Mark, suffered a massive heart attack. I did not drive at the time, so I rode in the cab of the ambulance -- an important point. From the emergency room I called Roger over in Newberg and told him of my demise and that I needed him. And though his mother, Valerie, was failing and needed his care 24/7, he found care for her, packed a bag and was at my side before Mark was pronounced dead at Calvert Memorial Hospital. Roger saw me back to my home and spent the next three days helping me with all the necessities of such an unexpected event -- funeral arrangements, suggestions, and to a great degree played the role of host to all those who came, particularly a horde of relatives from North Carolina.

I hope I "had his back" in different ways, as he always "Had Mine"; This friendship continued in much the same manner, "after Mark"; until Roger could "Friend" no longer. My friends were or became mostly his as well. We always were in awe of his vast number of friendships, all with loyalty, devotion, and fruition. Leonard and Valerie Murphy must have planted the seeds of principles and creeds which blossomed through the life of their son.

I would like to end this tribute to Roger by giving respect, appreciation, and thanks to Donnie Estevez, Roger's nephew, for the many years he has devoted to assure that his uncle received great care and retention of dignity as he succumbed to this prevalent dilemma of dementia afflicting so many of our senior citizens today. Kudos to Donnie and I'm positive Roger is echoing the same in his new life

We love you Roger, "the Dodger", Murphy. And we're so sorry the Chinese virus stole from you your Irish wake, but for you in attendance, there will be a minature one from each of his shared friends as we call: Goodbye "Dear One"; from our hearts.

Charlotte Lane Wilkening, Dunkirk & Chesapeake Beach, Calvert County, MD

and niece  
Sandra W. Warner, San Antonio, TX

**Charlotte Lane Wilkening** - August 18, 2020 at 04:49 PM



“ Dear Charlotte - I don't know you but I knew cousin Roger and that was a beautiful tribute you shared. He was a very special person in my life too. My Dad and Mom were Cecil and Charlotte Graves. When I was 4 or 5 (or maybe younger) our family - I had 2 sisters and 2 brothers at that time - used to go down to the countryside in Maryland. Roger's mother, Aunt Valerie, and at least 2 other aunts would fix a great meal and my fondest memory were those wonderful biscuits! After supper all the kids played outside until after dark, because that was the best time to catch fireflies! Roger and I were born in 1940 so we played together often. Many years later, when I was 19, newly married and living in Charleston, S. C. on my own (My husband was in the Navy and had been sent out on a 9 month cruise as soon as we arrived in Charleston.) Anyway, as you can imagine, I was pretty miserable, having never lived on my own or away from home, and Roger drove all the way from Washington, D. C. to check and see how I was doing. I think my Great Grandma Graves sent him on that trip but nevertheless he made that long journey. Years later when I was married to my second husband, Steve, he and I traveled with my Mom and sister Judy to visit Aunt Valerie and Roger again, and Steve and I returned once more after Valerie had passed and took a road trip with Roger to Annapolis and a few other places. He was always fun to be with, had a good sense of humor, always the gentleman, and many great stories to tell. His nephew, Donnie, got in touch with me later and kept me informed about Roger's situation. Roger and I got to share some phone calls before his condition deteriorated. I told Donnie when he called to tell us of Roger's passing that I knew he was being blessed because of all the good attention he gave Roger and that we were very grateful for all that he did. Roger was indeed a special, unique person. I can only hope and pray that he too was able to read the nice tribute that you wrote. With love, Ginger (Graves) and Steve Stocks .

**Ginger Stocks** - August 27, 2020 at 05:23 PM

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“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Roger Leonard Murphy Jr..



August 17, 2020 at 09:07 AM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Roger Leonard Murphy Jr..



August 07, 2020 at 01:37 PM

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“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Roger Leonard Murphy Jr..



August 07, 2020 at 12:21 PM

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“ David Murphy and Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Roger Leonard Murphy Jr..



**David Murphy and Family** - August 07, 2020 at 11:34 AM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Roger Leonard Murphy Jr..



August 06, 2020 at 05:50 PM