



## Charles Louis Ruddy Jr.

June 20, 1943 - February 26, 2026

It is with deep sadness and respect that we announce the passing of Charles L. "Chuck" Ruddy on February 26, 2026 at the age of 82. His life was defined by an unwavering commitment to the defense and security of the United States. Born on June 20, 1943, in Baltimore, Maryland, Chuck dedicated over six decades to serving his country, first in uniform and later as a leader in the defense industry.

### A Distinguished Military Career

Chuck's legacy of service began in June 1960 when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Over a distinguished 21-year career in the Naval Submarine Service, he rose from the enlisted ranks to earn a commission in 1972. A specialist in submarine engineering and surveillance, he served aboard both conventional and nuclear vessels and acted as the Electronics Material Officer for two submarine squadron staffs. His military tenure culminated in his role as Program Manager for the Submarine Surveillance Equipment Program, where he was responsible for the critical sensors used in Special Operations

throughout the Pacific. He retired from active duty in 1981, having left an indelible mark on the silent service.

#### Leadership in the Defense Industry

Following his naval retirement, Chuck transitioned his expertise to the private sector,

where he continued to support the warfighter. Beginning his career at Hughes Aircraft

Company in 1981, he eventually rose to the level of Director of National Guard and

Reserve Business Development for Raytheon. In this capacity, he was a tireless

advocate for the Reserve Components of the Department of Defense, ensuring that

those who serve in the Guard and Reserve were equipped with state-of-the-art

technology and support.

#### A Life of Adventure and Skill

Beyond his professional achievements, Chuck was a man of many talents and a true

commander of sea and air. He held a commercial pilot's license and was a U.S.

Merchant Marine Officer (Master of Steam or Motor Vessels). His passion for the water

led him and his beloved wife, Frances, to complete the "Great Loop," circumnavigating

the eastern United States and the Bahamas aboard their yacht, Oasis. In his later years,

he shared this expertise as President of Yachtstar Marine Services. He also dedicated

many years of leadership at the Lake Guntersville Yacht Club, including a

distinguished

tenure as Commodore.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Frances; their three children, Tina L. Farrell, Vincent J.

Ruddy (Estrella), and Christopher S. Ruddy (Angela); six grandchildren, along with a

great grandchild. He is also survived by his two sisters, Susan Reed and Roslyn

Mitchell (Bill). He will be remembered as a patriot, a skilled navigator, and someone who

pursued and realized his most ambitious goals and dreams. He will be greatly missed

by his wife, children, grandchildren and all who knew him.

Service Information

Family and friends are invited to honor Chuck's life and service at the following

locations:

☐ Memorial Service: Visitation Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 11:00 a.m, followed

by funeral at 12:00 noon at the Guntersville Memorial Chapel, 1601 Henry St., Guntersville, AL.

☐ Burial: Following the memorial service, a burial with full military honors will be

held at Mt. Olive Cemetery, 15030 Hwy 231, Union Grove, AL.

# Cemetery Details

## Mt Olive Baptist Church Cemetery

Union Grove, AL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 4. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Guntersville Memorial Chapel  
1601 Henry Street  
Guntersville, AL 35976  
(256) 582-7931  
guntersvillememorial@gmail.com

## Memorial Service

MAR 4. 12:00 PM (CT)

Guntersville Memorial Chapel  
1601 Henry Street  
Guntersville, AL 35976  
(256) 582-7931  
guntersvillememorial@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall

NJ

“ Dear Ms Frances, I was so sorry to hear of your profound loss. I remember the time I got to meet you and Mr Chuck. Y'all were so gracious and kind. It was obvious the love you two shared was deep and respectful. I am Jennifer's sister. We lived in Georgia at the same time. I just wanted to reach out to you and let you know you have been on my mind and heart. I pray that you feel the love and presence of God as you journey through this valley. God's blessings sweet lady, Nancy

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**Nancy Jones-Ernst** - March 18 at 08:42 PM

NJ

“ Nancy Jones-Ernst lit a candle in memory of Charles Louis Ruddy Jr.



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**Nancy Jones-Ernst** - March 18 at 08:34 PM

KF

“ Kathy Curtis & Bobby Figgs purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Charles Louis Ruddy Jr..



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**Kathy Curtis & Bobby Figgs** - March 02 at 12:09 PM

TR

“ *The Barrantes Family, Costa Rica purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Charles Louis Ruddy Jr..*



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**The Barrantes Family, Costa Rica** - March 01 at 07:06 PM

JH

“ *Chuck and Frances Rudy were friends and neighbors of ours and we enjoyed being with them on many occasions. Chuck was an intelligent and talented individual and was always fun to be with. He had an incredible knowledge about boats and anything nautical. In the last several years he and Frances enjoyed many exciting trips in their motor coach. We frequently ate out with them and enjoyed attending parties hosted by them on their boat at the Yacht Club and at their home. We will always remember the good times we had with Chuck and his death creates a void in our lives in Guntersville. Rest in peace dear friend Chuck, Jim and Jonita Haynes.*

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**Jim and Jonits Haynes** - March 01 at 02:42 PM