



Alphonso Ruff

September 12, 1945 - January 17, 2026

Alphonso Ruff, was born September 12, 1945 to Mack Lee McGaughy and Louise Ruff in St. Louis, MO. He was the oldest of four children. He departed this life on January 17, 2026. His parents and one sibling, Harold Ruff preceded him in death.

He was educated in St. Louis Public Schools and attended Sumner High School. He was later drafted into the U.S. Army in 1965 where he served in the Vietnam War. He met the love of his life, Darlene Charleston in 1964 and they united in holy matrimony on March 9, 1966. In his heart, he knew she was his special gift from God and he loved her dearly. There are five children in this union.

He accepted Christ as his personal Savior during a Promise Keeper conference in 1995 accompanied by his close friend and employer, Steve Tornatore. As he grew in his walk with the Lord, he enjoyed sharing the gospel with the elderly at nursing homes and witnessing to the lost at Soulard Market with Pastor Clarence Jackson and Barney Dandridge.

At a very young age, Alphonso developed a love for cooking and catering that extended over 50 years. He worked at popular St. Louis establishments:

Miss Hullings, Tony's, Port St. Louis, and Tornatore's Italian Restaurant to name a few. He also established his own restaurant, Ruff's Fine

Foods and Catering in St. Louis. His love language was cooking and serving others with his creativity in the kitchen. He enjoyed sharing his love of cooking with his kids and grandkids and he had a great love for music and playing the Bongos at church services. He also loved working out and staying physically fit.

He leaves to mourn a faithful and loving wife, Darlene Ruff, one son, Gerald Charleston (Dana) of Las Vegas, NV, four daughters, Alice Stokes Parks (Jose) of Arlington, TX, Shirlene Ruff, Alfie Shannon (Aaron) of Eules, TX, Dionne Liddell (Robert) preceded him in death. Fourteen grandchildren and twenty great grandchildren. One brother, Carroll Ruff, one sister-in-law Maxine Ruff, one sister, Patricia Pace, one brother-in-law, Donas Pace. A host of nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family and special friends in St. Louis, MO and Beloit, Wisconsin.

Cemetery Details

National Cemetery - Jefferson Barracks

2900 Sheridan Rd
St. Louis, MO 63125

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Cross Keys Baptist Church
14255 New Halls Ferry Road
Florissant, MO 63033-1607
(314) 831-0643

Funeral Service

FEB 2. 11:00 AM (CT)

Cross Keys Baptist Church
14255 New Halls Ferry Road
Florissant, MO 63033-1607
(314) 831-0643

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

Archway Memorial Chapel - February 02 at 01:21 AM



“ *Archway Memorial Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Alphonso Ruff*



Archway Memorial Chapel - February 02 at 12:03 PM

KS

“ *Kenneth McGhee And Archway Staff lit a candle in memory of Alphonso Ruff*



Kenneth McGhee and Archway Staff - February 02 at 01:25 AM

CC

“ *Cross Keys Baptist Church purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Alphonso Ruff.*



Cross Keys Baptist Church - February 01 at 09:17 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Alphonso Ruff.*



January 27 at 06:38 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Alphonso Ruff.*



January 26 at 09:50 AM