



Remembering our brothers who have passed from this life

## Ralph M. Parker, '51

May 11, 1931 - December 18, 2016



Private in "HQ" Company

Varsity Football, Basketball,  
Baseball

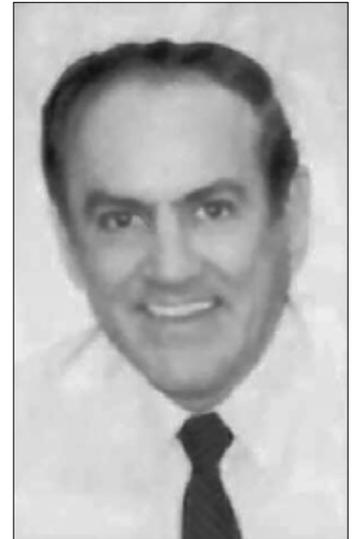
ATLANTA - Ralph M. "Rip" Parker, born May 11, 1931, a resident of Atlanta for the last 18 years, and originally from Newport News, Va., passed away Dec. 18, 2016.

Ralph was the son of the late Carl Anderson Parker, well-known home builder in Richmond and Newport News, and the late Helen Dunaway Parker, originally of Eastern Shore, Virginia.

Known for his quiet confidence, his beautiful smile, friendly ways and tender heart especially when it came to dogs, animals and children, Ralph was a steadfast pillar of the community and a reliable rock for his family. Ralph leaves behind his devoted, loving wife Barbara Parker of Newport News.

Both were graduates of Warwick High School. Ralph, class of 1950, met Barbara after returning from a two-year stint in the U.S. Army during the Korean War where he was fortunate to be a Chaplain's Assistant, likely due to his top-notch sixty-word a minute typing skills and winning personality.

Ralph, an All State football star at Warwick, became known as Rip following a telegram he received from a Times Herald-Daily Press sportswriter wishing him luck before a big game, and dubbing him "The Ripper" for his speed and finesse cutting down the field.



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Ralph also attended Augusta Military Academy, lettering in football and baseball. Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VA. Tech) awarded him a football scholarship, but during the first season he suffered a torn knee ligament. Deciding against surgery, Ralph returned home and let his knee heal naturally.

As soon as it did, the Army took note and Ralph was drafted. After returning from his Army service Ralph graduated from Lynchburg College in three years, majoring in Political Science and minoring in History.

Ralph immediately went to work for Atlantic Richfield Oil Co. and then for Union Oil Company of CA. where he became an award-winning sales executive, in charge of hiring dealers for stations and truck stops and overseeing the fueling at Nascar Races. Ralph hired the fuel teams, and loved mingling with the drivers and the excitement of being in the pit. He nurtured a lifelong love of cars, and always owned several, all in show room condition.

Saturdays for Ralph meant lawn work, then washing the cars until they gleamed. Sundays were for church, and after the service, Ralph would roll up his shirtsleeves, broil steaks and French-fries, slice cucumbers into vinegar and say grace.

He always had a dog by his side and rescued many who became cherished pets. While living in Florida,, he indulged in his love of English Bulldogs, owning several, whom he spoiled and cried over when they died.

Throughout his life Ralph was the consummate family man and family came first. He coached his sons' little league teams, made sure his children were on the swim team, in Scouting, and took the entire family on wonderful, child-centered vacations each summer. After putting his children through college, he told them: "You can always come home again."

Upon retirement, Ralph and Barbara moved to Knoxville, then Atlanta, where Ralph stayed current on politics and world events, and lived a beautiful life centered around family, friends and pets.

Ralph is survived by his brothers, Carl Anderson Parker, Jr. (Jean) Robert Parker, (Flo) his children Terri Parker, David Parker and Michael Parker, and his grandchildren Jordan, Daniel, Pascal, Paris, Caleb and Holden.

A private service was held in Atlanta for family; a public funeral will be held in Ralph's beloved Va. in the spring; notification forthcoming.

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