



Freddy Larry Rathel

September 21, 1938 - May 26, 2026

Freddy L. Rathel, 87, of Winchester, Virginia, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, in Winchester, Virginia.

Born on September 21, 1938, in Iron City, Georgia, Freddy was the son of the late Lonie Rathel and Daisy Harlow Rathel. He was also preceded in death by his wives, Peggy Carey Rathel and Colleen Rathel, along with 13 siblings.

Freddy is survived by his loving children, Lisa R. Leckie of Front Royal, Virginia, and Christopher S. Rathel (Laura) of Winchester, Virginia; stepdaughters Sandra G. Dodson and Robin G. Rodgers (Keith), both of Winchester, Virginia; and his cherished grandchildren Emma Kerns (Cohen), Addison Rathel, Sidney Rathel, Jace White, Noah White, Holly Parker (Mark), Heather Wilson (Jason), and Stephanie Duvall (Brice), all of Winchester, Virginia, and Brandi C. Gibson (Joshua) of Bryan, Texas. He is also survived by numerous great-grandchildren, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

After graduating from high school, Freddy proudly served his country in the United States Army. Following his military service, he began a long career with the United States Government at the Mount Weather Facility in Bluemont. After retirement, he continued serving others through his work with Project HOPE before dedicating his time and heart to Heart Havens, an organization devoted to empowering adults with developmental disabilities.

Freddy had a passion for golf and tennis and especially treasured the time he spent with his grandchildren, rarely missing their activities and events. His faith was a guiding force throughout his life, and he was a lifelong member of Reliance United Methodist Church and its Men's Group.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Reliance United Methodist Church, located at 70 Cauthorn Mill Road, Middletown, Virginia, on June 28th 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Heart Havens, 7501 Boulders View Drive, Suite 205, Richmond, VA 23225, or Legacy Palliative Care, 600 Pegasus Court, Suite 100A, Winchester, VA 22602.

Chris and Lisa would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Legacy Palliative Care for the compassion, love, and care they showed their stubborn dad during his final months.

Upcoming Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **28**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Reliance United Methodist Church
70 Cauthorn Mill Road
Middletown, VA

Tribute Wall

TF

“ Chris and Lisa, so sorry the loss of your Dad. Freddy was truly a wonderful man, seemed to always have a smile on his face. I was lucky to have known him for about 45 years and played some golf with him and Chris. Great memories. Love you both, and loved Freddy.

Tim Frye

Tim Frye - June 08 at 09:34 AM

LR

“ Lenore Racey lit a candle in memory of Freddy Rathel



Lenore Racey - June 02 at 02:49 PM

JW

“ Chris and family,
I'm so sorry to hear about the loss of your Father. Prayers for strength and healing though this difficult time. Big hug!

Jennifer Watt - May 29 at 03:31 PM

CA

“ Dear Robin and Keith, so sorry for the passing of your Father. Our love and prayers are with you and your family. Fondly, Carroll "Buster" and Charlene Anderson.

Charlene Anderson - May 29 at 01:05 PM

CA

“ Chris & family, so very sorry for your loss.
Keeping you all in our prayers.



Chrissy Armel - May 28 at 09:02 AM

BL

“ Chris , I am so sorry for your loss my thoughts and prayers go out
for you and your family

Brian K. Legge - May 28 at 05:55 AM

TM

“ When our Dad was in hospice care Freddy was so kind to us. I'm
sure he and Dad have a golf club in their hands together right now!
Thinking of his family with prayers for strength 🙏

Terry Clark Morrow - May 27 at 01:01 PM