



Ralph E. Perkins

July 13, 1937 - February 22, 2026

Ralph Eugene Perkins, 88 of Willow Springs, MO. passed away on February 22, 2026, at Mercy Hospital in Springfield, MO. Ralph was born on July 13, 1937, in Willow Springs to Justin Eli Perkins and Elma Narciss (Bridges) Perkins. He graduated from Willow Springs High School in 1955 and went on to work in the timber industry as a logger, woodcutter, carpenter and woodcarver.

Ralph was known for his sense of humor, his many talents and his kind heart. He was a devoted father and grandfather who cherished time spent with family and friends. He was a champion horseshoe thrower and a gifted master woodcarver, sharing his carvings across the country. Notable works include the large Bear at the Munford Gym in Willow Springs, multiple life-sized Indians and Hillbillies, & countless tree trolls carved from stumps he cut after the winter storm of 2007, transforming destruction into lasting beauty. Ralph was also a professional musician who brought joy to so many through his harmonica, guitar, banjo and fiddle. He played at gatherings, churches and Weaver's Barn in Mountain View, and the Star Theatre in Willow Springs, filling each place with music and warmth that will not be forgotten. After retirement, Ralph enjoyed reading Western novels and whittling (especially walking sticks). He couldn't stay out of the woods for long though and cut occasional loads of firewood for friends and family. He enjoyed attending sporting events at Willow Springs High School and watching every kind of

sport on television, especially basketball and football. He spent most mornings drinking coffee with friends in cafes and telling jokes and stories. He was often seen walking his beloved pet dogs Chewy and Hondo with his metal detector in many locations about town.

Ralph is survived by his 5 children; Donna Kay Holt (Oscar), Angela Joyce "Angie" Ball (Charley), Judith Lynn "Judy" Wozniak (Adam), Mandy Eugenia Clarke, and Ryan Williamson Perkins & 10 grandchildren; Brent, Coty, and Benjamin Holt, Leslie Brown and Korey Brown, Dakota Wozniak and Zane Moore, Noah Clarke, Sofie Clarke, and Hope Bower, and 5 great-grandchildren; Noah Holt & Olivia Holt, Riley Brown & Henry Brown, and Alistair Wozniak. He is also survived by his siblings; Caroline Roper, Ellen Fullen, Ray Perkins, Helen Campbell, Janice Burns, and Jessie Bennett and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and greats.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Nila Joyce (Lovan) Perkins; his father, Justin, his mother, Elma and his stepfather, Ray Albin Perkins; his siblings, Justine Benedict, Velma Walker, Sonya Perkins, Justin Perkins, Willie Perkins, Mary Taylor, Jimmy Perkins, & Baby Boy Perkins.

A celebration of Ralph's life will be held on February 27, 2026, at Westside Family Life Center at 1274 County Road 5270, Willow Springs, MO. Visitation begins at 1 pm followed by services at 2 pm. Interment will follow at Willow Springs City Cemetery.

Ralph's warmth, kindness, music and jokes touched the lives of many, leaving a lasting impression on everyone he met.

Cemetery Details

Willow Springs City Cemetery

State Rte DD
Willow Springs, MO 65793

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 27. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Westside Family Life Center
1274 County Road 5270
Willow Springs, MO 65793
(417) 469-3360
office@wflc.net
<http://www.wflc.net>

Service

FEB 27. 2:00 PM (CT)

Westside Family Life Center
1274 County Road 5270
Willow Springs, MO 65793
(417) 469-3360
office@wflc.net
<http://www.wflc.net>

Tribute Wall

DM

“ Angie, Brent, Leslie and families, I'm sorry for the loss of your loved.

Dustin Mahan - February 28 at 08:58 PM

WC

“ Westside Family Life Center purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ralph E. Perkins.



Westside Family Life Center - February 26 at 04:30 PM

TR

“ Angie, my sincere condolences on your family's loss.

Teresa Eldringhoff Romans - February 26 at 01:48 PM

DH

“ Ralph had a unique sense of humor. I think the first time I met him went this way; he leaned in and spoke quietly in my ear, do you know the difference in a nagging woman on the front porch and a barking dog on the back porch. If you let the dog in, he'll stop barking.

don hamby - February 25 at 08:09 AM

AA

That's a very Ralph kinda thing...but the jokes he told me were quite a bit "Racier:I'm gonna miss him so much!

ALLEN ALICIA - February 25 at 11:41 AM

JE

“ *Jeanworley lit a candle in memory of Ralph E. Perkins*



jeanworley - February 24 at 08:23 PM

TA

“ *One of my favorite memories of Ralph Perkins... He would always ask me if I would come over to his house and help him, I would say sure Ralph what do you need help with he would always respond with, he needed to find out if his dog would bite! I was very young when he started that and it took me a long time to figure out what it meant! I loved his smile, even though he tried not to. I loved to smile, loved him. He was a very good man.*

Toby Adams - February 24 at 07:28 PM

JP

Thank you for one of many that shared moments with my loveable Uncle Ralph and the love you had for him appreciated more that you know ❤️.

Jonathan W Perkins - February 25 at 07:18 AM

BC

My son Joshua Perkins is Ralph's nephew. He would tell Josh to tell me he hated me.lol. what he was really telling me is that he loved me

Brenda Christensen - February 25 at 02:37 PM