



Raymond Eric Childers

February 11, 1960 - August 22, 2025

Raymond Eric Childers, 65, died peacefully at home August 22, 2025. Born February 11, 1960 to Ross and Ruth Ann (Holstrum) Childers, he is survived by his daughter, Mamie Roberta Keakealani Childers of Hawaii, and his sisters, Jan (Mark) Burton of Albuquerque, New Mexico and Amy Childers, Urbana IL. Numerous Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces and Nephews on both sides survive. He was preceded in death by his stillborn, firstborn, a son, as well as his parents and grandparents. A graveside memorial is planned for October 24, 2025 at Chillicothe City Cemetery, 11 am, followed by "Talk Story Time" Fellowship and Meal at AMVETS in Chillicothe, Illinois.

Childers graduated from Hoopeston East-Lynn High School Class of '78 where he played football, the tuba in the Marching, Pep, Pit and Concert bands, and interned in auto mechanics. He enlisted in the United State Army and became a Military Policeman serving at Scofield Barracks, Oahu where he met and married Benji Kawailima with whom he had his two children. He was deployed to Germany to guard United States nuclear assets during the Cold War, later returning to Hawaii. He then became a Hawaii County Policeman spending the next 25 years on the Big Island where he married his second wife Sally. He became a Sargeant working traffic accident reconstruction, using the skills he learned at his father's drafting table on Saturday mornings at FMC in Hoopeston, Illinois.

Upon retirement Ray returned to his beloved family in Illinois settling in rural Edelstein on his "Childers Homestead". He enjoyed joining AMVETS, the VFW, serving in the Honor Guard, mowing, collecting historical memorabilia, reading, listening to the radio and fixing his own truck. He loved to "talk story" and rarely missed a class reunion, family gathering or funeral. Fishing trips to Minnesota with his Uncle Marshel Poff of Chillicothe were the highlights of recent years. He was always up for a road trip in his truck, continuing to daily drive country roads up until his death.

A lifelong Lutheran, Ray opened the morning by looking in the mirror and asking, "Who loves you, Ray?" and acknowledging, "God does". He ended the day with prayer and even considered in high school becoming a Lutheran minister. Enjoy true retirement now, Ray, with Jesus, your beloved family and friends who have crossed over before. Meet you on the other side.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

OCT **24**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Chillicothe City Cemetery
510 West Frances St
Chillicothe, IL 61523

Fellowship gathering following the graveside service at the Chillicothe AMVETS.

Tribute Wall

DT

“ I was blessed with the opportunity as a new officer with HPD, working with Ray as my senior officer. This was in the district of North Kohala on the Big Island of Hawaii. Ray was a wealth of knowledge and a trusted beat partner, learned a lot from him about police work and enjoying life. I learned that both go hand in hand if you want to survive as a police officer. Gonna miss his crazy contagious laughter and enjoyment for life and the challenges life brought. Godspeed my friend. DT

Darryel Tolentino - October 15, 2025 at 08:40 PM