



## Ralph Henry Burdett

September 1, 1946 - October 4, 2025

A stalwart pillar of strength and service, Ralph Henry Burdett was born in Luton, England on September 1, 1946. When he was 2 years old, his family moved to Canada for a year, before immigrating to America, where, in New Jersey, he was raised by his loving parents, Rita Burdett Bertish (1916-1975) and Manuel Burdett (1917-1961). At 15, on the second night of Pesach, his father passed away suddenly, and Ralph and his mother moved back to England for a short time, before returning to New Jersey, where Ralph graduated from East Orange High School in 1964. With a love of country and during the heat of battle in February 1967, Ralph volunteered to serve for the US Army during the war in Vietnam. He honorably served in the 101st Airborne's 325th elite infantry unit, famously known as the "Screaming Eagles," until being awarded his second Purple Heart and having to return home with life-altering injuries towards the end of 1968.

In 1977, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Truman State University. He worked as a phlebotomist, paramedic, and ambulance driver; and upon arriving at a fatal scene, where a mother and child were killed by a drunk driver, he decided to enter law enforcement to prevent such tragedies. He became a police officer, serving with honor and purpose, before proceeding to become the Head of Security for several major hospital systems, including Houston Methodist, Baylor Waco, and the Harris County Hospital District (HCHD), which encompassed Ben Taub, LBJ, and all

HCHD health clinics and parking facilities.

In 2012, Ralph fell in love with Linda Friedman Pravda, and they married in 2014. Ralph was happy to have a family again. He was a loving husband to Linda, devoted son-in-law to Susanna Friedman (1924-2013) and Ben Friedman (1924-2014), reliable step-father to Wendy Pravda (Eric Schnitzer) and Bryan Pravda (Stephanie Barr), caring brother-in-law to Janet Friedman and Dr. Alice Friedman, committed step-grandfather to Sadie and Eve Rosen and Sydney Schnitzer, and also a compassionate brother-in-law who honored the memory of Michael Friedman (1954-1992).

After Ralph retired as the Administrative Director for HCHD in 2014, he continued to help ensure safety for others, volunteering to serve on multiple security committees in the Houston community, and he was active in several religious and political organizations, supporting America and Israel, and working to ensure that this world would be better and safer for others before he departed from it- on October 4, 2025.

Ralph left this earth after 79 years of sacrifice and service. He was a humble hero- a patriot, a protector, and preserver of peace. With politeness and respect, a calm demeanor, and a disposition that personified integrity, he embodied the most noble characteristics of a gentleman and a serviceman. He believed in justice and embodied honor, valor, and courage, which were veiled by his humility and balanced with a softness of sincere care and compassion. He loved pets, and his favorite dog breed was Newfoundland, notorious for water rescues and saving lives. Ralph had a clever wit, a subtle humor, and sympathy for everyone he encountered. He was guided by a purity of purpose- helping others.

A funeral service took place on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 2:30 pm in the Sophia and Jack Bender Memorial Chapel at Beth Yeshurun Post Oak

Cemetery, 7445 Awty School Lane, Houston, Texas 77055. The service will also be livestreamed at the following link: <https://venue.streamspot.com/f8d04b5b>.

In lieu of flowers, you may honor Ralph's memory and comfort his family by making a donation to the Hebrew Order of David ([www.hodnorthamerica.org](http://www.hodnorthamerica.org)), Jewish War Veterans ([www.jwv574houston.org](http://www.jwv574houston.org)), Aishel House ([www.aishelhouse.org](http://www.aishelhouse.org)), MD Anderson ([www.mdanderson.org](http://www.mdanderson.org)), Congregation Beth Yeshurun ([www.bethyeshurun.org](http://www.bethyeshurun.org)), or a suitable charity of your choice.

# Cemetery Details

## Beth Yeshurun Post Oak Cemetery

7445 Awty School Ln.  
Houston, TX 77055

# Previous Events

## Cemetery Chapel Service

OCT 9. 2:30 PM (CT)

Sophia and Jack Bender Memorial Chapel  
7445 Awty School Ln.  
Houston, TX 77055

*The service will also be livestreamed at the following link: <https://venue.streamspot.com/f8d04b5b>.*

# Tribute Wall

MB

“ I first met Ralph when we took a fitness class at a church on Bellaire Boulevard less than a block east of Loop 610. He was a delight to be around and he inspired his classmates to work hard on our exercises. Also of importance is that the two of us are ex-Panthers. He graduated from East Orange High School in 1964 and I graduated from there a year later. I wish I had known him back then. May Ralph rest in eternal peace!

Michael Brown - October 19, 2025 at 06:22 PM

JH

“ Ralph was a member of Company A, 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 506th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. We shared service in that unit in Viet Nam during Tet 1968, the bloodiest and longest Battle of that long bloody war.

He was a great soldier and a very good man. I am sorry that the device is so quick because I would have liked to come to show my respect for him, for what he did as a soldier, and for who he was as a man.

We will miss you Ralph. Currahee my friend. I will see you on the other side.

john harrison - October 09, 2025 at 04:17 PM

AM

“ Anita Mattis lit a candle in memory of Ralph Henry Burdett



Anita Mattis - October 09, 2025 at 03:36 PM

JE

“ *Ralph served with me in the 3rd Battalion 506th Airborne Infantry, Alpha Company. We were sent to Vietnam in October of 1967. Ralph was seriously wounded in February 1968 during the Tet Offensive and medevac'd out of country. We reunited several years back at a reunion the unit's members have at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. He was a good friend and a fine man. The roll call will remember his name when next the men of Alpha Company gather. Ralph will be missed.*

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**Jay Eckhart** - October 09, 2025 at 11:05 AM

MP

“ *As a patient of mine for 25+ years, our professional relationship was overshadowed by our personal friendship, which was characterized by compassion, understanding and love. I will miss you my friend. May God bless you and yours. Matthew Plummer. DMD*

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**Matthew. Plummer** - October 09, 2025 at 10:28 AM



“ *Ralph was the love of my dear friend Linda and a shining light to everyone who met and knew him. He will sorrily be missed by family and friends. B'h*

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**Celia P Schwarz** - October 08, 2025 at 10:32 PM

NB

“ *Ralph was a very nice and polite person. He possessed a wry and warm smile . I enjoyed seeing him on Shabbat and at HOD. May your memory be a blessing as your life was.*



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**Nick Bouza** - October 08, 2025 at 08:15 PM