

Memorial Book



In Loving Memory of

Ralph Anthony Zulferino

(March 11, 1959 - June 8, 2007)



"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

John 5:24

This memorial website was created to remember our dearest **Ralph Anthony Zulferino** who was born in **United States Brooklyn, New York** on **March 11, 1959** and passed away on **June 8, 2007**. You will live forever in our memories and hearts.

In loving memory of a man, my cousin, Ralph, not the man I knew completely but a spirit that amazed me, left me breathless as I watched its courage in the face of darkness through an unexpected, untimely battle with cancer... ..a spirit that as his flesh was dying came to know the Lord and came to know where it would spend eternity ... a spirit that gave back a gift to me as I tried to share with Ralph the peace I had found through my battle. And much to my surprise while I prayed with Ralph and for Ralph's physical healing he gained so much more... While his flesh was fading a spirit grew. It leapt with faith, with hope with a passion to try to cling to this life as we knew it a life we loved and wanted to go on. But as this flesh could no longer find

ways to sustain itself or find ways to hold ona spirit grew bigger... ..grew bigger with a truth of knowing its Creator yet struggling with the flesh as we all do... ..struggling with the need to go in this life as he knew itstruggling with the need to go on being a husband, a dad, a daddy, a brother, a son, an uncle, a nephew, a cousin a friend. In the flesh, he felt his body had failed him. He often told me the worst part about having "this" as he would say is that my wife and kids have to see me suffer. He wasn't concerned about the suffering he was enduring but for others. "I'm not afraid to die," he would say bravely almost without much emotion. I'm sure he was afraid and nobody wants to die in this life. But his spirit was sustained in a place that had a hope for salvation. He once gave me a book to read about the Holy Spirit...it didn't speak much of physical healing but mostly focused on salvation...he always recognized the peace he received through Christ. I once saw him encourage another man who was gravely ill and I'm sure there were many others he encouraged. Ralph hoped for physical healing but he also knew the gravity of his illness. He remained positive and showed us a good face, his almost constant sense of humor, and a will to live that never seemed to give up. But when we all knew the fight was ending, physically and mentally there was a hope ...a hope for the peace he would find with his

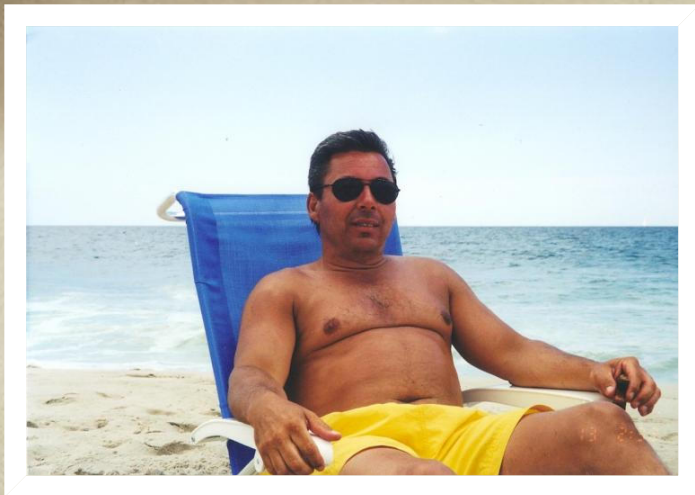
Creator. He would never say the word that identified his illness. He refused to identify with it. It was not who he was. As his pain became increasingly unbearable at the end it was the spirit that mattered and impressed us all and that spirit knew it was going away... away to a place where there is no sickness, no suffering, no mourning. Ralph knew of this place intimately because he fed his spirit daily. His spirit had been open to receive the Word of God and the person in the flesh knew his spirit mattered more... Ralph read the Word of God each morning in the bible, heard about as it was preached from the pulpit, listened to as it was preached on tv, learned about it as he was encouraged by others ...asked questions when he didn't understand the answers...beat himself up when his faith wavered...but continued on much to our surprise. As his spirit grew in the Word he would say things that the world couldn't understand...Cousin, Lor he would say, "It's all about the Word." And yes, the flesh wanted nothing more than to be physically healed. After all, that was the prime motivation for drawing near to the Word. But God has a greater plan for all of us and it is not for us to question how or why but it is all of our duty to read His Word to come to a place that Ralph understood...the place that through God's grace we can arrive...Ralph would want us all to know that it wasn't just promised to him but to all those who believed that Christ died so that all of our spirits would live on in eternity in paradise. We cannot lean on our own understanding as to why some struggle in the flesh as Ralph did but I understood the undescribable peace that Ralph found in the midst of the storm having struggled in the flesh in a similar way, for a much shorter time. ...And could we all be so confident in our lives that we think this need to find God only comes to those that suffer? Suffering comes to all at some point in our lives...it is a guarantee. Jesus told us in the bible, "In this life you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. (John-16:33)" Jesus also spoke about how the word which is the "seed" would fall on good ground as well as rocky ground ...some would accept it and some would not be rooted and grounded enough in the word so the word would be heard and forgotten. It doesn't matter how long we live in this life but what matters most is the wisdom we get while we are in this world. I'm glad RALPH GOT IT. He chose to get the right wisdom. Ralph's passing was too soon for us but he got the prize which we are not all guaranteed to get just by being good on this earth. We have to make a choice. It is hard to find comfort in our everyday lives especially for his wife and children and family that live everyday without the man, who they knew and loved. We will miss many things about him...his love for life and adventure, his sense of humor, his wit and generosity. But as time goes on we understand the importance not of the life left behind but the importance of what lives on. We have to recognize how Ralph was transformed and became a new creation in Christ or his death would be in vain. I only speak this way not because I spent so much time with Ralph...I didn't. But because I saw a deeper side that I never would have seen had he not been transformed by his illness. He use to say to me, "Cousin Lor, can you believe this is happening to us?" But as I watched I knew God was transforming me, transforming him and through my battle helping him. I watched and knew God was surely pleased with him. And because of that I know he earned his reward. Tomorrow is not promised to anyone. We must take what Ralph went through and envy him for what he gained not pity him for what he lost. It is not the time spent on this earth that matters but in the end God gives us all a chance to accept him and gain the prize of eternity with Him. So as a year comes around ...the first anniversary of the day we lost Ralphie, the man, I call all of you who read this to celebrate the spirit of Ralph that found eternity with Christ something we all could someday hope to have. Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and faith in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places; otherwise, how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you? I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I shall come back to take you with me, that where I am you also may be. You know the way that leads where I go." (John 14:1-4) Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you have known me, you will also know my Father. From now on you know him and have seen him." (John 14:6-7) The bible tells us we all are given the same measure of faith but without works our faith is dead. Ralph was a man who took that measure of faith and put it to work and while he could have given up a long time sooner in the flesh...he gave

the Word of God a chance and found power in it. While his flesh endured much suffering, at the same time because of that suffering, his spirit was awakened to another level. He fed his spirit the Word of God and it sustained him...the Holy Spirit that he read about, the Counselor that Jesus promised would come to us, came to Ralph and sustained him. Ralph fed his faith daily with God's daily bread which is His Word and it showed itself strong. And as the flesh weakened the spirit grew more powerful. Powerful enough to face eternity with a peace we could not understand in the flesh...only in the spirit. Although Ralph rarely showed that there was fear in living with illness and leaving this world, there was peace and readiness to meet His Creator...that did not scare him. It was the reason he was able to let go. So the gift we could give back to Ralph is the gift of one day seeing him again. I encourage all those that read this to not only remember Ralph for the man he was but in honor of his spirit, ask the Holy Spirit to come into your heart, to live and dwell in you. Pray for God's grace...so that your soul can live on in eternity, with Jesus, with others that have believed and gone before us and with Ralph. That would give Ralph and yourself the greatest gift. "For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God" - Romans 1:20 When we all were not ready, one day God took the man from us and claimed the spirit which was His anyway. We wanted to hang on to it but the spirit was ready to "go away" as Ralph put it. The last time I saw Ralph I read him a scripture, "DO NOT BE AFRAID, FOR I AM WITH YOU." Isaiah 43:5. Even in his last days, he asked for prayer and knew His God had the power to intervene, he knew the power of God and that must have pleased God. God took Ralph out of his suffering not in the way we all would have planned but I guess that is why we are not God and we can't understand this in the flesh. Those who knew Ralph knew the man but those that witnessed him through his battle with cancer witnessed a supernatural power. Ralph called himself "Superman" because for a very long time it appeared he was winning the battle in the flesh but Ralph won the battle...he fought the good fight and kept the faith. Ralph knew that he himself could not sustain his mind through the battle but something greater than his flesh was stirred from within. We would talk sometimes on the phone but mostly by email. Ralph often talked to me in the spirit. It was not the cousin I knew speaking to me but something greater was going on something bigger than cancer more powerful than cancer something that had the power to sustain his spirit. I recognized that peace. That was the connection we had. And today I have a peace that many of us who knew Ralph share, the peace of knowing that Ralph got the prize, the crown, the joy for his sorrows, the beauty for ashes. Ralph wanted others to know this peace. He knew the Word of God had power, power to give and power to take away. And while God took his spirit we cannot hold on to the flesh or the bad memories. We have a duty to Ralph to hold on to the good memories of him the man, and to look to his life as an example to all of us...that life is so precious. It is temporary. How will you spend eternity? Choose life...as Ralph did...have a thirst for what Ralph learned. Don't wait until you are in the battle. I miss you Cousin Ralph. We all miss you. Thanks for teaching us one of the most valuable lessons in life. The things that really matter are those things that we carry with us throughout eternity. I find comfort today knowing that I hope to see you again and that you are spending your eternity in paradise. Cousin Lor

The background is a textured, mottled olive-green or taupe color. In the upper right quadrant, there are two roses. The one on the right is larger and more open, showing its petals. The one on the left is smaller and more tightly closed. Both roses appear to be a light, dusty rose color, blending subtly with the background.

Gallery

so sweet, so unforgettable...



on vacation



Cathy Ralph Ralphie



at home



at home



Michael Ralphie



Corvette



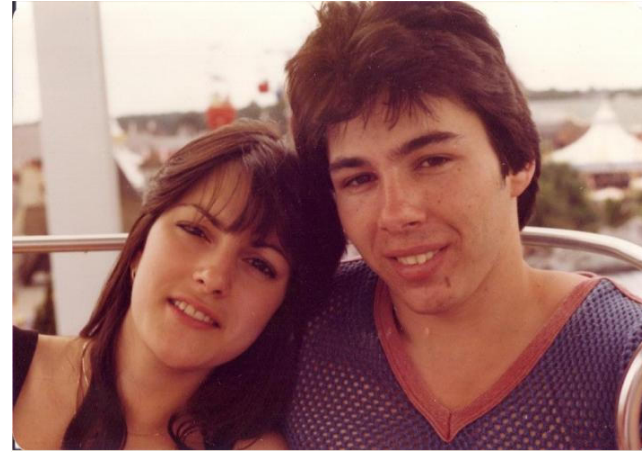
Michael's Communion



Ralphie



Corvette



Cathy Ralphie Dating



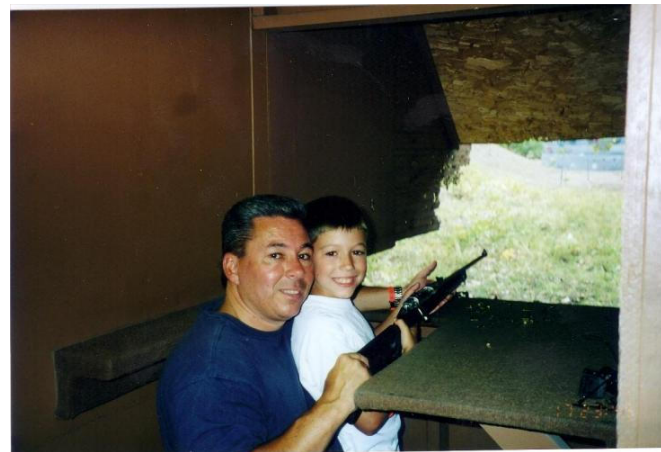
on vacation



Our Family



Zulferino cousins



scan0016



Cristina's Communion



on vacation



Ralphie

Two roses are positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image. The rose on the left is smaller and more tightly curled, while the one on the right is larger and more open, showing its petals. They are set against a mottled, olive-green background that has a soft, painterly texture. The lighting is diffused, creating a gentle glow around the flowers.

Memorial Candles

our words, your light...

01/01/2010

HEAVEN

Another year begins without you, i know you are watching over us. love you and miss you

12/30/2009

2010

I know you didn't choose to go, I can't help thinking how great my life would be if you were here! Luv & miss u

11/12/2009

Christina

Life has made a complete 360 change since you left and i miss u more and more everyday <3 i love you

10/26/2009

FRANKIE

Miss you everyday, love you...

09/19/2009

SweetPea

Tomorrow is my engagement party. I wish with all my heart that you could be here with me. I love you and miss you so much. Sweetpea

07/25/2009

Sweetpea

Uncle Ralphie... We miss you so much. Nothing is the same without you. I love you and wish you were here everyday. You are the BEST

06/18/2009

Cathy

Too long without you! So much has changed! I miss you everyday! You are forever in my heart. I love you and miss you. Love You Always

06/08/2009

Pebbles

Ralphie, 2 yrs gone, but it feels like you just left. I'm still as heartbroken as the day you went home. luv u & miss u so much!

06/08/2009

FRANKIEf

Ralphie, today its 2 years, wow, all i can say is i miss you every day, love you

06/08/2009

Lori Finamore

Thinking of you today and always..we will never forget you and I know you live because He lives! Until we see you again, Cuzin Lor

06/08/2009

Melissa Eiler (Visitor)

Thinking of you Ralph on your Angel Date today. May God forever Bless You & yours.

06/08/2009

Mom to Angel Melissa Platt

I light this candle in memory of your beloved Ralph on his Angel Day, God Bless you...

05/17/2009

Cathy

Rae,ralphie graduated from college today.he's truly amazing.i'm so proud of him! i know you were with us. love you always!

05/16/2009

ROCCA

Ralph you are missed everyday..... .. "Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget."

05/02/2009

MaryRose

Ralphie, today was anthonys communion.of course empty without you,meaningless but i know that you were with us.luv u miss u always

04/22/2009

FRANKIE

It's almost two years, it feels as if i was with you yesterday. i miss you everyday. love you.

03/12/2009

Lori

We have not been the same without you but we know you are in a greater place we can't even imagine. We will see you again.

03/10/2009

**ROSE GRMA TO
BRITTANY SYFERT**

As you were you will always be, Treasured forever in ur loved ones hearts. Sending lots of love to u all, God Bless.

02/16/2009

MaryRose

To my brother in heaven, I just want you to know, that you are with me wherever I go. Though you've went away and we're apart, you w

02/16/2009

MaryRose

love you and miss you each and every day..

06/12/2008

Princess Jasmine

Daddy may you r.i.p. No words can express how much I miss u!U were truly an amazing person and father. I love u with all my heart

06/08/2008

TONY(chucky)

I think about you every day, how life should have been with you in nj.i love and miss you now and forever. never forget!

06/08/2008

Lori

One year ago today you went home to be with the Lord. Because Jesus conquered the grave you now know the joy we hope for! Love u.

06/07/2008

Theresa

Everyday I think of your smile and your laughter, thankyou for leaving me those wonderful memories. Love you and miss you

06/04/2008

john & nina

Yo!Nut,never could bare to see you suffer,but we were always with you,in prayer,in spirit,in the wonderful memories Miss u nut

06/04/2008

Frankie

I miss you more than words could ever express. My life will never be the same without you. Miss you everyday. Love you.

06/03/2008

Henry

Its so hard to believe a year has passed since you were taken from us. No words will ever explain why. You are missed everyday.

06/03/2008

Rocca

Ralph, your everyday kindness and love was never wasted they made a difference,God bless you the giver.

06/02/2008

Anthony & Dina

Boobie, We miss you and love you. Thanks for pointing us to NJ. The only thing missing is you! ..Goodnight Boobie!

06/02/2008

Larry D

*Miss you alot Bro'.....
....You left me with many fond memories. You are "My brother from another mother".*

06/01/2008

Tony & Joan

Ralphie Boy, you are truly missed in so many ways each day. We will always smile while remembering the times we spent together.

06/01/2008

Lina & Guy

Dude, you are missed every day, there are so many things that remind us of you each day, we love you & miss you

06/01/2008

Cathy

Words cannot express how much I miss you!Life will never be the same without you.You are forever in my heart. Love you forever!

05/31/2008

Rich, Ro, Rick and Aly Guarino

Not a day goes by where we don't think of you, and pray for your family. Forever in our hearts Love, The Guarinos

05/30/2008

joanne callari (messina)

May you be in peace in the eternal life with the lord. say hi to camille tell her till we meet again. god bless

05/29/2008

Pebbles

I cry for you everyday. Life will never be the same. No laughter no meaning. I miss you and love you so much Until we meet again

05/24/2008

**Lori, Sandro & Renata
Finamore**

*We think of you often, pray
for your family, and
remember your spirit. With
much love, Cousin Lori,
Sandro and Renata*

Two roses are positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image. The rose on the right is larger and more open, while the one on the left is smaller and more tightly closed. They are set against a mottled, olive-green background that has a subtle, painterly texture. The lighting is soft, creating gentle shadows on the petals.

Condolences

from the deepest of our hearts...

**Debi: Mom to Angel
Andrew**

just passing by

March 10, 2009

What an absolutely beautiful and heartfelt tribute to your cousin Lori. It was so well written that I could literally sense the type of person that Ralph was...how as the cancer robbed his body, the Lord enriched his soul. The fact that he was so ready, yet didn't want his family to see him in that shape, tells me that he put them before himself. You are so right...an untimely death.

My only sister died of pancreatic cancer five years ago, just two months after her diagnosis. During the last two weeks, I discouraged people from seeing her because it was always the same. She was imaciated, only 65 pounds and didn't even resemble the beautiful woman that she was. I wanted her dignity preserved.

Then, in July of 2005, our 18 year old son was maintained on life support for five days following a car accident in which he was ejected from the car. He looked liike Andrew, our handsome son who just happened to have his head bandaged and was asleep. So many people visited and so many young people cried and prayed. Andrew died on July 16th, 2005.

Feel free to visit his site if you wish...God Bless You and your family and may Ralph fly high with the other Angels who are whole and healthy again.

Debi Collins

<http://andrew-collins.last-memories.com>

Frankie,Theresa,Michele&Franki

In loving memory

June 7, 2008

You are loved and missed, more than words can express. We thankyou for the gifts you left us. Our hearts go on becuase you taught us to be strong, have courage, to be humorous even when it is difficulut, and to

keep the faith. And although we all want you here, the bond and love we have for you can never really keep us apart.

You will always be our "Ralphie".

Who luckier than us to have an angel like you!

***Dominick & Nancy
Zulferino***

Uncle Boobie & Aunt Nancy

May 30, 2008

You are our Godson, and nw you have found peace after suffering for many years,now you are with your true God..Ralph your Dad had his first Stroke over 7 years ago, and is still in a recovery house, your wonderful mother has been there almost every day, and after you left us it has really taken a toll on that wonderfull women who I don't consider my sister-in law but my SISTER.. Even though your father was the oldest in our family, I always was ther for all our family after our loving father (Popa) passed away. You made our whole familiy Proud of the Zulferino name with all you accomplished in your life. I was never a Church going man BUT I BELIEVE IN GOD I only hope and pray in my own way that you can maybe convince God to accept me when its my time, and to make your Mother strong and well again she is a God loving women.

***Lori, Sandro & Renata
Finamore***

Cathy and the Zulferino Family

May 29, 2008

Bless those who mourn, eternal God, with the comfort of your love that they may face each new day with hope and the certainty that nothing can destroy the good that has been given. May their memories become joyful, their days enriched with friendship, and their lives encircled by your love. Amen.

The background is a textured, mottled brown and beige color. In the upper right quadrant, there are two roses. The one on the left is a smaller, tighter bud. The one on the right is a larger, more open rose, showing its petals. Both roses are rendered in a light, almost white color, making them stand out against the darker, textured background.

Memories

all the gray you turned into colors...

Lori Finamore

These are things I remember about Ralphie.... the first time I rode on the back of a motorcycle, lighting up 62nd Street and 23rd Ave every 4th of July, his Corvette, my first time on a boat, many fun rides on his boat...the bigger the waves the better, the time he threw sandwiches overboard because there was mayo on them! his sense of humor in every situation, the time that he kept me in the revolving door at Uncle Ralph's company party, going to guitar lessons with him, and the strength he had through his illness, his sense of humor through it all and his perseverance. You were one of a kind and you are missed.

The background of the entire image is a soft, textured, olive-green or sepia-toned wash. In the upper right quadrant, there are two roses. One is a smaller, tighter bud, and the other is a larger, more open flower with visible petals. They are rendered in a light, ethereal style, blending into the background.

Life Story

every hour, every thought, every smile...

March 11, 1959

Born in **Brooklyn, New York** on **March 11, 1959**.

June 8, 2007

Passed away on **June 8, 2007**.

Our Deepest Sympathy

www.last-memories.com