



## Rev. Dr. Ralph D. Koehler Sr.

November 7, 1955 - March 8, 2017

Rev. Dr. Ralph D. Koehler, beloved husband of Ruth M. Koehler (nee Kalesse), passed away on March 8, 2017 at 61 years of age. He is survived by his loving wife, his three children Sara Koehler, Julia Gonzalez and Ralph D. Koehler Jr, his two brothers, Broderick (Rick) Koehler and Andrew H. Koehler, and his five grandchildren. He is predeceased by his parents, Doris Ann Koehler (nee Denny) and Paul F. (Bud) Koehler, and his brother Paul F. Koehler Jr.

Ralph was born November 7, 1955 and was a graduate of Penns Grove High School class of 1973, where he excelled in sports and academics. He graduated from Rowan University with a degree in Mathematics, and went on to earn two Masters degrees in Computer Science and Mathematics. He later earned a PhD in Divinity. Ralph had a long and respected career at Lockheed Martin Corporation, before retiring to serve the Lord full-time as a beloved Chaplain in many of South Jersey's nursing homes. He also spent many years as an avid evangelist. His motto was a verse from the Bible, James 1:27: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." A devout man, Ralph loved to study the Bible, play the guitar and sing, and spend time in nature. He was also an excellent part-time care taker of his grandchildren. He is best remembered as a wise, loving and devoted family man, and for his kind, generous and upright spirit. Ralph is the author of several books, which can be found on his website,

<http://www.Jesus7777.com>.

A visitation for family and friends will be held on Thursday, March 16 at Ashcraft Funeral Home in Pennsville from 10:00-11:00AM with a memorial service to follow at 11am.

Burial will follow at Lawnside Cemetery in Pilesgrove, NJ

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Ranch Hope Alloway, NJ at [www.ranchhope.org](http://www.ranchhope.org).

[www.ashcraftfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ashcraftfuneralhomes.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Lawnside Cemetery

1017 Route 40  
Pilesgrove, NJ 08098  
(856) 769-2626

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Ashcraft Funeral Home (PV)  
740 S. Broadway  
Pennsville, NJ 08070  
(856) 299-3366  
ashcraftfuneralhomes@gmail.com

## Memorial Service

MAR 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

Ashcraft Funeral Home (PV)  
740 S. Broadway  
Pennsville, NJ 08070  
(856) 299-3366  
ashcraftfuneralhomes@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall

BB

“ I want to give honor and praise to our Heavenly Father for the privilege of knowing and serving with Pastor Ralph at the Elmwood Hills Nursing Facility. I cherish his leadership and warm Christian example. He leaves a void that only our lord can help assuage. Our comfort is that we will meet again at the feet of Christ. Godspeed Brother Ralph.



*Bob Barnshaw  
Almonesson UMC*

---

**Bob Barnshaw** - March 16, 2017 at 07:18 AM

ML

“ Sorry for your loss, Ralph was an awesome man. I'll always remember playing guitar with Ralph when we lived in Newark. My brother Mark would join us and we would play together in Ruth and Ralph's apartment. Oh, to be young again! Mike Lukaszewicz

---

**mike lukaszewicz** - March 15, 2017 at 05:38 PM

SA

“ The Philly Inquirer contacted the family to do a free interview on my Dad. It's in today's paper.

---

**Sara** - March 15, 2017 at 09:52 AM

RG

“ So sorry for your loss. I first met Rev Ralph at a nursing home a number of years ago, where he was playing his guitar and leading services for elderly shutins, including my father. I have seen him a number of times since, at a total of four different nursing homes where he was doing the same for my sister and mother, and many, many others. I am thankful for his kind heart, service to my family, and to his Lord, whom he has now at last met face to face.

---

RG - March 15, 2017 at 07:14 AM

SM

“ Ralph was truly a beautiful person. To be around him was to feel welcome, loved and cherished. He made you feel peaceful even when you were in trying times. My children adored him and always looked forward to trips to their house for the 4th and other events. You were a true blessing to our family and will be sorely missed. I know you are looking down on all of us from at the right hand of God. Love always and Forever, cousin Shannon and Family...

---

Shannon Mowbray - March 14, 2017 at 02:48 PM

CS

“ I have just received this sad news about Rev. Ralph. He was a regular here at United Methodist Communities at Pitman to sing and play his guitar for our skilled nursing residents. He was kind, gentle soul, with a soft voice which helped to calm and relax our residents. As a person, he was always respectful and most eloquently polite. We will miss him. He is a man of such strong faith; Heaven will be welcoming his music. We send our most heartfelt condolences to his family.

Warm Regards,

Carrol Stella and Staff  
Director of Community Life

---

Carrol Stella - March 13, 2017 at 09:33 AM

JG

*Thank you for your kind words about my father. God bless you.*

-----  
**Julia Gonzalez** - March 13, 2017 at 12:42 PM

SA

*Carrol, thank you for taking the time to write such nice things about my Dad. God Bless.*

-----  
**Sara** - March 13, 2017 at 08:24 PM

MD

“ *I am so sad to hear this news. Ralph was such a kind and gentle man, and his faith and devotion were always evident even in the secular setting that was work at Lockheed Martin, where I knew and worked with Ralph for 15 years. Ralph was a dedicated worker for God's message, and our belief in God's healing power will help to give us all peace. May God bless you all. / Mike Dominik*

-----  
**Michael Dominik** - March 13, 2017 at 04:23 AM

JG

*Thank you Mike. We appreciate your kind words. God Bless you.*

-----  
**Julia Gonzalez** - March 13, 2017 at 12:45 PM

SA

*Thank you Mike for taking the time to write such nice things about my Dad. God Bless.*

-----  
**Sara** - March 13, 2017 at 08:23 PM

VR

“ *Victoria Rothwell purchased the Divine Light for the family of Rev. Dr. Ralph D. Koehler Sr..*



-----  
**Victoria Rothwell** - March 12, 2017 at 09:28 AM

RE

“ While my heart is broke and tears continue to roll down my face, I am truly blessed to have known such a man. A man who gave so much of himself for so little. A man who loved others by donating his time, talents, and acts of kindness. A selfless man who had a heart of pure gold and walked upright before the Lord. I spent many spiritual moments with Bro. Ralph (which he preferred me to call him), for well over 2 years. He provided inspiration through song & word to Cinnaminson Center Nursing Home. We were blessed by every visit. Bro. Ralph would always give me an assignment before leaving. Whether it was to listen to a song, read a book, or search something on the web. He was a man of God and would stop and pray whenever someone was in need. I'm sad to see him leave and we will miss him dearly. I know unselfishly his race was won and God called him home. I am certain I'll never meet another Bro. Ralph in my lifetime. His life has touched me so much I'll proceed to look forward, "Pressing Toward the Mark For the Prize of the High Calling of God in Jesus Christ"!! May God bless the family and give you peace through this difficult time, In Jesus Name. Regina Brown, Recreation Director

---

**Reigna** - March 11, 2017 at 01:10 PM

JG

Regina, Thank you for your beautiful words. We appreciate you sharing this with us.

---

**Julia Gonzalez** - March 11, 2017 at 04:18 PM

SK

Thank you Regina for sharing that with us. It means a lot to us.

---

**Sara Koehler** - March 12, 2017 at 01:21 PM

NN

*Sara, Julie and Ralph's family,*

*This is not just a loss for your family, it is a significant loss for all of us, his Lockheed Martin friends, co-workers and employees who have been fortunate to work with him. Your father is a kind and intelligent man. His devotion to God is vividly demonstrated through his expression and actions of loving, caring and respect for others. I remembered several discussions with Ralph in early 2010 about his early retirement in April 2010 so he can devote more times to his ministry work. On behalf of many of Ralph's colleagues and employees at Lockheed Martin, I would like to express our sincere condolences to you and your family. Our thoughts and prayers and with you and your family during this difficult time.*

*Nghia Nguyen*

---

**Nghia Nguyen** - March 13, 2017 at 09:10 AM

RJ

*Thank you to everyone for the kind words and memories. My Dad was a selfless person that truly poured his love out on all he came in contact with.*

---

**Ralph Jr.** - March 13, 2017 at 12:03 PM

JG

*Thank you Nghia. We appreciate your kind words and sentiment. God Bless you.*

---

**Julia Gonzalez** - March 13, 2017 at 12:49 PM

SA

*Thank you Nghia.*

---

**Sara** - March 13, 2017 at 08:21 PM