



Robert Whitelaw Rafferty

November 1, 1946 - January 14, 2026

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Robert W. Rafferty Sr. (79) on January 14, 2026. Born in Scotland on November 1, 1946, Robert immigrated to the United States at the age of sixteen, embracing his new home and later becoming a naturalized citizen in July 1972. His deep sense of duty and appreciation for his adopted country led him to a distinguished career in the United States Navy, where he served honorably for more than 20 years.

As a Navy Electrician, Robert served aboard numerous fleet vessels and in shore assignments throughout his career, ultimately attaining the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer. One of the most significant highlights of his service was serving as the lead electrician during Operation End Sweep, a critical mission to clear naval mines from Haiphong Harbor during the Vietnam conflict. His leadership, technical expertise, and unwavering professionalism earned him the respect of all who served alongside him.

Following his honorable retirement from the Navy, Robert continued his life of service as a civilian employee with the Department of Defense and later as a contractor with Life Cycle Engineering and, most recently, Amee Bay.

Robert was the beloved husband of E. Elaine Rafferty, with whom he shared 55 years of marriage. He was a loving father to his sons, Robert II (Catherine)

and Ian (Carrie). He was a proud grandfather to Drew, Lillian, Isabella, Reid, and Grady, whose lives and accomplishments brought him immense joy. He was preceded in death by his father David, his mother Catherine, and his siblings Elizabeth, Cathie, and David.

Robert will be remembered for his unwavering service to his country, his deep devotion to his family, and the quiet strength, integrity, and humility that defined his remarkable life.

Service Information

A Gathering of Family and Friends to celebrate Robert's life will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2026, from 10:30am to 12:30pm at James A. Dyal Funeral Home, 303 S. Main Street, Summerville, SC. Following the gathering the family will receive visitors at the Summerville Country Club, 400 Country Club Blvd, Summerville, SC 29483.

Previous Events

Gathering of Family and Friends

JAN 17. 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

James A. Dyal Funeral Home
303 S. Main Street
Summerville, SC 29483
(843) 873-4040
<https://www.jamesadyal.com>

Tribute Wall

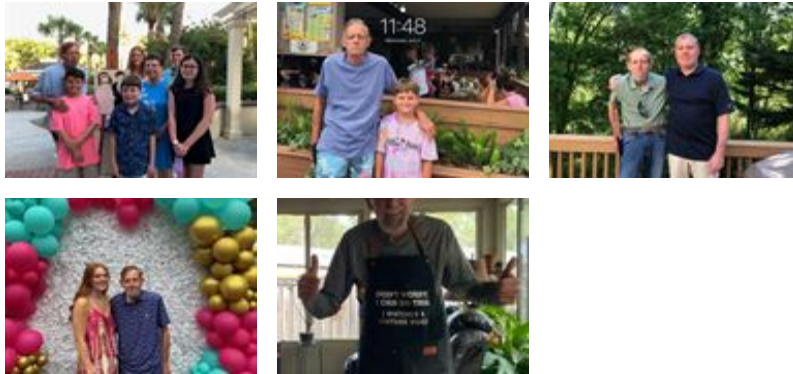
RM

“ Richard M. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Whitelaw Rafferty.

Richard M. - January 19 at 09:13 AM



“ 86 files added to the album Life Tributes



James A Dyal Funeral Home - January 16 at 09:51 AM

KF

“ Kevin Long & Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Robert Whitelaw Rafferty.



Kevin Long & Family - January 15 at 09:56 PM

KF

“ Kevin Long & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Whitelaw Rafferty.

Kevin Long & Family - January 15 at 09:56 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Robert Whitelaw Rafferty.



January 15 at 08:54 PM

LD

“ Love from Joan and Diane planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Whitelaw Rafferty.

Love from Joan and Diane - January 15 at 08:54 PM

BF

“ Brian, Kevin and Cindy Mann and family. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Robert Whitelaw Rafferty.



Brian, Kevin and Cindy Mann and family. - January 15 at 08:01 PM

BF

“ Brian, Kevin and Cindy Mann and family. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Whitelaw Rafferty.

Brian, Kevin and Cindy Mann and family. - January 15 at 08:01 PM

BL

“ Buddy, Catherine, Heather, and Laurie purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Robert Whitelaw Rafferty.



Buddy, Catherine, Heather, and Laurie - January 15 at 06:03 PM

BL

“ Buddy, Catherine, Heather, and Laurie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Whitelaw Rafferty.

Buddy, Catherine, Heather, and Laurie - January 15 at 06:03 PM

MW

“ Michael W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Whitelaw Rafferty.

Michael W. - January 15 at 05:52 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Robert Whitelaw Rafferty.*



January 15 at 05:21 PM



“ *Helen & Johnny Plexico, and children planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Whitelaw Rafferty.*

Helen & Johnny Plexico, and children - January 15 at 05:21 PM



“ *David and MaryAnn Dieter purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Robert Whitelaw Rafferty.*



David and MaryAnn Dieter - January 15 at 03:10 PM



“ *Debbie Couche & Heather Shinkle purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Robert Whitelaw Rafferty.*



Debbie Couche & Heather Shinkle - January 15 at 03:02 PM