



Michael Raymond Ragusa

April 9, 1939 - May 3, 2026

Michael Raymond Ragusa, born April 9 in Independence, Louisiana, died peacefully on Sunday, May 3, 2026 at the age of 87. He will be remembered for his enthusiasm for life, his giving to others, and the love he had for his daughters and family. Michael was a man who lived fully; he experienced successes, setbacks, and made his share of mistakes along the way. But later in life, he found a deep and meaningful relationship with the Lord that brought him peace, renewed purpose, and a faith that became an important part of who he was.

He is survived by his daughters: Louette M. Ragusa, Jolee Sunderland (Andy), Sonja Newman (Chevies), and Micah Bujol (Paul); grandchildren, Will Sunderland, Annie Sunderland, Hunter Bujol, Mary Bujol, Camille Newman; sister-in-law, Nancy Ragusa; many nieces and nephews, extended family, and dear friends.

Michael is preceded in death by his parents, Joseph R. Ragusa and Mamie E. Labruzzo Ragusa; brother, Louis Ragusa; sister, Carmelite Crapanzano.

His first job was as a bellhop at Casa de Fresa. A graduate of Hammond High School "Class of 1957", was the star passer and runner for the Purple Hurricanes and lettered in multiple sports. He attended Auburn University, where he studied building construction, played saxophone in the band, and was a proud member of Sigma Pi fraternity. He also served in the Army National Guard. After college, Michael briefly worked as an insurance adjuster before joining the family business, Ragusa Brothers Construction Company.

The Ragusa family legacy in construction ran deep. His father, known as Papa Joe, was a skilled carpenter and later a superintendent for large construction companies. Michael worked alongside his family as an estimator and eventually became part owner of Ragusa Brothers, contributing to numerous important projects throughout the region. His work helped shape the community, including projects at Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond High School, Seventh Ward Hospital, and First Guaranty Bank, among many others. In time, Michael expanded his entrepreneurial efforts, venturing into the alligator industry with Circle M Ranch alligator farm, reflecting his willingness to embrace new opportunities.

Family was at the heart of Michael's life. He was strong-willed, imperfect, and deeply human. In his later years, his faith became a guiding light, leading him to live with greater humility, gratitude, and devotion to the Lord. He found joy in life's simple moments and cherished time with family and friends. Through his conversations, and enduring love for those closest to him, he left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the visitation at Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home at 12012 Hwy 190 W. Hammond, LA 70401 on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. until the funeral service at 1:00 p.m. Interment will follow in Rose Memorial Park Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Rose Memorial Park Cemetery

908 Western Avenue
Hammond, LA

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 13. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home - Hammond, LA
12012 Highway 190 W
Hammond, LA 70401
(225) 567-1884

Funeral Service

MAY 13. 1:00 PM (CT)

Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home - Hammond, LA
12012 Highway 190 W
Hammond, LA 70401
(225) 567-1884

Tribute Wall



“ *Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael Raymond Ragusa*



Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home - May 11 at 11:11 AM

SN

“ *So sorry to hear of this, was out of town, my prayers are with you all. Love to you all*

sue navarre - May 21 at 09:34 PM

LJ

“ *Love, Gloria and Jolie purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Michael Raymond Ragusa.*



Love, Gloria and Jolie - May 12 at 06:27 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Michael Raymond Ragusa.*



May 12 at 12:43 PM

RS

“ Mike and I graduated from HHS in 1957, I remember Mike well and was sorry to hear of his passing. My condolences to the family. I plan to attend the visitation next week.

Ralph Shaw - May 06 at 02:49 PM



“ Pure Heart was purchased for the family of Michael Raymond Ragusa.



May 04 at 05:37 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael Raymond Ragusa.

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