



# Edward Ragsdale

**Fort Lauderdale, FL | Sunday, March 10 2024**

It is with great sadness that the family announces the peaceful passing of Dr. Edward Ragsdale, after losing his short but courageous battle with cancer on March 10, 2024, with his three children by his side.

Ed was well known in the community of Alton, Illinois, where he lived and worked for more than 50 years. He was a doctor, politician, farmer, proud veteran and a friend to many. He was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on March 24, 1939, graduated #1 in his class from the University of Arkansas and went on to attend Washington University Medical School in St. Louis, where he specialized in radiology. In 1968, he married Meredith (Smith) of Kirkwood, Missouri, and joined the Air Force, where he served in active duty until 1970.

Ed and Meredith moved to Alton in 1970, where Ed joined the staff of Alton Memorial Hospital. One of the longest serving doctors to ever work at the hospital, Ed became the chairman of the Department of Radiology. He was medical director of Twin Rivers MRI Center and was active in the County and State Medical Societies as a frequent speaker and advocate. In 2017, Ed was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from Alton Memorial Hospital.

Ed also worked hard in Republican politics, serving as Madison County Chairman from 1976-1994 and Alton-Godfrey-Foster chairman from 1995-2016. He was elected to be a Ronald Reagan delegate to the Republican National Convention in both 1980 and 1984.

As much as Ed loved medicine and politics, his true passion might have been his 160-acre cattle farm. Ed loved fishing, duck hunting, traveling, camping and nature, and was a proud Eagle Scout.

Ed is now reunited in heaven with his parents, Floyd and Elizabeth Ragsdale. He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Meredith. He is also survived by his three

children: Lynda Davey, Alan Ragsdale and Phillip Ragsdale, his son-in-law Tim Davey and daughter-in-law Samantha Ragsdale; his four grandchildren: Sam Davey, Sara Davey, Ava Ragsdale and Tucker Ragsdale; his sister Ellen Ann Hopkins; and his 3 nephews: Jonathan, Beau and Cabell Hopkins.

Ed lived a high-impact life. He was a proud patriot and will be dearly missed by his family, friends, members of his church, and the community he loved.

**Visitation:** April 6th from 9:30 - 11am St. Mary's Catholic Church 519 E 4th St, Alton, IL 62002

**Funeral Mass:** April 6th at 11am St. Mary's Catholic Church 519 E 4th St, Alton, IL 62002

**Celebration of Life:** April 6th from 12:30 - 3:30pm Lovejoy Wedding and Banquet Center 401 Piassa Street, Alton, IL 62002.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the American Cancer Society in Ed's name. [https:// donate.cancer.org](https://donate.cancer.org).