



Darrell D Stark

FEB 17, 2016



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Introvigne
Funeral Home, Inc.

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Darrell D Stark

FEB 17, 2016

Darrell D Stark, 92, of Stafford Springs, CT, husband to the love of his life for 69 years, the late Julia (Ridzon) Stark, passed away on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at Evergreen Health Care Center surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Ardmore, OK, son of the late Frank H. and Gladys (Pollard) Stark. He left his loving family in Oklahoma at 16 to work in the Civilian Conservation camp in Montrose, CO. He enlisted at 18 in the United States Army and was a very proud member of the 31st infantry. He surrendered in Bataan, Philippines on April 9, 1942, and saw the horrors of the death march. He spent time in the Cabanatuan and Davao Penal Colony and Bilibid prison, and then spent 62 days on the Hellship Canadian Inventor and arrived in Moji, Japan in September or October of 1944. He worked in a factory in Yokkaichi, Japan for three or four months until the factory was destroyed by an earthquake. He then went to Toyama and was liberated there in August 1945. After returning to the United States, he was hit by a car and that is when he met the love of his life working at the military hospital. Darrell was a Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient. He retired as a corrections officer from the State of Connecticut. Darrell was a member of the Strazza, Tonoli-Emhoff Post No. 26 American Legion, V.F.W. Post No. 9990 of Stafford, and the Italian Benefit Society. He spent a lifetime trying to help those who suffered from PTSD, talking to veterans at the VA or veterans at the prison, they all had the same thing in common and all handled it differently. He loved to be on the go and if one of his children was not able to take him to lunch or out and about he would say “that’s ok, I’ll call Dave or Fred”. Thank you Dave Walsh and Fred Bird, he loved you both like family. He also had adventures with Hope Frassinelli every Friday since his beloved Mimi passed away. We cannot forget the reporter that came to interview with him and found a new family and new projects that he would give her to do, Amber Wakley, thank you. He is survived by his three children, Darrell W. “Butch” Stark and his wife Dolores,






Obituary

Darrell D Stark

Darlene Dion and her husband Edward, and Judy Gilbert and her husband Ronald; nine grandchildren, Jennifer, Amy, Cynthia, Eddie, Chris, Michael, Peter, Nancy, and Stephanie; 15 great grandchildren; two brothers, Donald “Bud” Stark and his wife Reta, and Gerald “Ed” Stark and his wife Ruby; two brothers-in-law, Edward Ridzon and Daniel Ridzon and his wife Pat; very special friends, Dick and Shirley Hills; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by three sisters and two brothers. His funeral service will be held on Monday, February 22, 2016 at 10 A.M. at Introvigne Funeral Home, Inc., 51 East Main St., Stafford Springs, CT. Burial with Military Honors will follow in South Cemetery, Tolland, CT. Calling hours are on Sunday from 1-4 P.M. at the funeral home. Memorial donations may be made to the Stafford Youth Center, 3 Buckley Highway, Stafford Springs, CT 06076, American Legion Post No. 26, 10 Monson Rd., Stafford Springs, CT 06076, or please show an act of kindness towards a veteran. For online condolences or directions, please visit: www.introvignefuneralhome.com






Visitation

-  **Sunday**, February 21, 2016
-  1:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET
-  **Introvigne Funeral Home, Inc.**
51 East Main St., Stafford Springs CT 06076




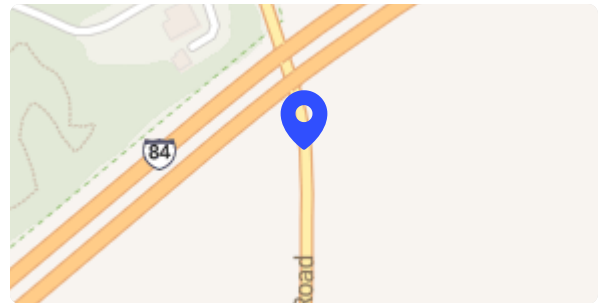
Service

-  **Monday**, February 22, 2016
-  10:00 AM ET
-  **Introvigne Funeral Home, Inc.**
51 East Main St., Stafford Springs CT 06076



Cemetery Details

-  **South Cemetery**
Cider Mill Rd., Tolland CT 06084





Tribute Wall

Darrell D Stark



Jeff Morhardt posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Your dad and grandfather was a very special man. He certainly lived a very full life and accomplished more in his lifetime than most men. The most important to him was probably being a family man. He was very proud of all of you and wanted to share that whenever he saw us. Little League was when we first got to know him but it lasted way past that. He and dad had many conversations, often while shopping. That is where we saw and talked to him many times, also. He might have been tall in stature with a somewhat gruff voice but he always had a smile and some interesting piece of information. We know you will all miss him but you certainly have many happy memories. Know, also, that he will be missed and remembered by the many people whose lives he touched. Jeff and Marilyn Morhardt

February 24 at 7:13 AM



Anon posted:

So sorry for your loss. I went to school with his grandson Chris and I remember back when Mr Stark came to Witt Middle School to talk to our class. He told us about the Bataan Death March and other experiences he had. He brought a pair of shoes he wore during his time as a POW and I'll always remember that image as I have for the past 30 plus years. Even as a kid I was impressed by how upbeat he was despite the obvious hardships he was sharing through his stories. He must have been an incredibly strong and stoic man to have lived through what he endured as a young man and to soldier on through life as long as he did. You have every right to be proud and then some and I'm glad to say that he made a positive, lasting impression on me. Thank you, Mr Stark, for your service, your time, your stories and your life.

February 22 at 7:33 AM



Tribute Wall

Darrell D Stark

RV

Russell Vibberts posted:

I have tried to find the words to express all that I'm feeling at the loss of a Great American. I have searched and researched and finally found the words that I could not express. There are no better words or statements than those of The Commander of the US Forces in the South Pacific during WWII, General Douglas MacArthur. "Duty, Honor, Country. Those three hollowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be". Darrel Stark lived this motto; in the face of adversity he overcame the cruelty of the Bataan Death March, on this return home he was all he could be and caring of his fellow man. Darrel was a Giant of a Man and a caring soul, friendly and kind. Finally, for those young and uninformed, Stafford Springs per capita sent more troops into WWII than any Town or City in the United States, the list of your Stafford Forefathers is long and you can add one more, Mr. Darrel Stark who decided to settle here and make Stafford Springs his home with a family and love for his community and all our residents. Personally, I was honored to accompany Mr. Stark on a few of his speaking engagements especially the one at the Coventry High School Auditorium, his acceptance was overwhelming. I'm honored to say that Darrel Stark was my friend and fellow Veteran. Russ & Eileen Vibberts and the entire Vibberts Family share our Condolences to the Stark and Dion Family.

February 21 at 2:31 PM

JE

John And Sandy Emhoff posted:

Dear Darlene, Judy, Darryl and families, You are in our thoughts and prayers as you say your goodbyes to your Dad, father in law, Grandfather, and great grandfather and to such an honorable man who meant so much to so many people. It humbles us to have known Mr. Stark, he survived so much and shared his life's adventures. God be with all of you. John and Sandy Emhoff

February 21 at 12:45 PM

AD

Ann Dix posted:

Our family is grateful for our connection with Darrell. He was such an interesting, kind and thoughtful man. He had a strong bond with our parents, Bob and Pat Dix, and the friendship that started with them has passed down through our families over the years. In addition to fond memories of spending time with Darrell we are lucky to have tangible things to remind us of him, such as the book about his life that is on our shelf, and his handiwork in the house that continues to be enjoyed by all. We send our admiration and respect to all of Darrell's family. Sincerely, The Dix family

February 21 at 11:37 AM



Tribute Wall

Darrell D Stark

PB

Paul Blow posted:

Condolences to the family and those of us who knew him. He will be missed. A member of "the greatest generation", he will be remembered in services in Cebu, Philippines as a defender of that country as well as our own. Paul & Carol Blow, Ashford, CT

February 21 at 4:56 AM

ST

Stinga lit a candle in honor of Darrell.



February 21 at 4:43 AM

CG

Cathy Laviolette Gleason posted:

There are no words for the loss of such a wonderful person. He will always be remembered by me. I will always treasure my memories of mr stark, from the pharmacy to the library. To all of his family, my thoughts are with you and i know the sadness you all feel. My deepest sympathy, cathy laviolette-gleason

February 20 at 10:13 AM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Stark family.



February 20 at 9:25 AM

RM

Ron And Brenda Merkel sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Stark family.



February 19 at 6:01 PM



Tribute Wall

Darrell D Stark



Rachel Verlik posted:

I was so saddened to hear of Pop's passing. He was always a big support to me and no sports game was the same without him in the stands cheering us on. He was a true hero who overcame so much to share his kindness, generosity and wisdom with those around him. My thoughts and prayers are with you- God Bless Pop.

February 19 at 2:22 PM



Paul G. lit a candle in honor of Darrell.

My heart goes out to the Stark family. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. I had the great honor of knowing Darrell through our PTSD group at the VA. I loved when our Vietnam group met with his WWII group. He was such an inspiration to all that had the good fortune to know him. He has given me, as well as others, a beautiful example of making the best of what life we have despite our PTSD. He was a man of great dignity and generosity, a true hero. This world has lost a brilliant light but, we who have know him will carry him in our hearts. I salute you my dear Brother.Paul G.



February 19 at 12:00 PM



Penny, Bonnie, Dale And Carol sent an Enduring Grace to the Stark family.

February 19 at 10:07 AM



Ct Department Of Correction sent a Sacred Duty Spray to the Stark family.

February 19 at 9:53 AM



Your Friends And Family At Cummins sent a Sacred Duty Spray to the Stark family.

February 19 at 8:48 AM





Tribute Wall

Darrell D Stark



Lori And Daryl sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Stark family.



February 19 at 7:19 AM



Rosemary & Mike Polansky posted:

We did not know you Darrell, but we thank you for your service. God Bless You and Keep you. You deserve your rest. With Sympathy to your family Rosemary & Mike Polansky CSP trp 1st class (ret)

February 19 at 6:55 AM



Jane M Carlsen lit a candle in honor of Darrell.



February 19 at 6:44 AM



Michael Bouyea sent a virtual gift in honor of Darrell.



February 19 at 6:29 AM

Michael Bouyea February 19 at 6:30 AM
For you Darrell. A symbol of pure peace.



Michael Bouyea posted:

My personal condolences to the entire Stark family and friends. I knew Darrell in a "very special" way, attending the POW/MIA group at the Newington Veterans Hospital. I respected him for all that he'd gone through and in turn had a very special relationship that lasted several years. Though I was from a different war, he ensured me that I could learn from him and I did. I thank him for the extraordinary treasures that he bestowed on me. I'll always remember his stories and the laughs we all shared. This was and is one dedicated man. A true soldier that will soldier on. I miss him already. At future groups, we will leave one chair empty that will always be available for him in spirit. An "Empty Chair" for an exceptional man. A 101st (Vietnam) Airborne Salute to Darrell D. Stark. Sincerely, Michael Bouyea 101st Airborne Division (RVN) 1969

February 19 at 6:25 AM



Tribute Wall

Darrell D Stark

LB

Lori Bliesener posted:

May you find comfort in the full and rewarding life you dad led during his time on earth. He has found comfort in the light of the Lord and will watch over his family and friends for ever more. Lori and Daryl

February 19 at 6:24 AM

PC

Patsy Cromwell posted:

Galen and I are so sorry for your loss. Darrell was a very kind man and I believe the town of Stafford was so proud of him as a veteran and a friend to the people who knew him, We will miss seeing him around town and having a chance to talk to him. May he rest in peace and be reunited with the Love of his life Julia. Galen and Patsy Cromwell

February 19 at 5:26 AM

DD

Dana Dillon posted:

Though some of you may know this, I thought Darrell would want you all and his family to know what the meaning of the folding of the flag represents: The American Flag is Folded 13 Times... The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life. The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life. The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world. The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance. The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong." The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States Of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all. The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic. The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day. The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded. The tenth fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born. The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit. With the final fold the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust."

February 18 at 12:07 PM



Tribute Wall

Darrell D Stark

KR

Karen Reed posted:

So very sorry about your dad. When my grandmother passed away my mother wrote me a note about the loss of Granny, " Those we love, never go away. They walk beside us, every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed, still ever dear." Maybe these words will help you. God Bless, Tom & Karen (Morsey) Reed

February 19 at 5:08 AM

ST

Stinga posted:

As a young teenager Pop was a blessing to have in my life. He was always surrounded by his loving family and friends and it was an honor to be part of that. He touched many lives and will be missed by all.

February 19 at 5:05 AM

EC

Eileen Colletti posted:

Darrell's family...Growing up in Willington and sharing many memories of my youth and older years with your family and your grandparents and mine Mary and martin Bartok bring smiles to me I will cherish for years to come You are all in my thoughts and prayers..Love You AllEileen (morsey) Colletti

February 19 at 4:58 AM

LF

Love, Henry, Hope, Robin, Beth And Families sent a Sacred Duty Spray to the Stark family.

February 19 at 4:12 AM



DN

Donna Niewinski posted:

It was an honor to know Mr. Stark. My thoughts are with all of you at this difficult time. May all of his memories keep you all strong.Donna Niewinski

February 19 at 2:19 AM



Tribute Wall

Darrell D Stark



Paulette Chandler posted:

In my thoughts and prayers mom shep

February 19 at 1:03 AM



Bette Toney posted:

My prayers and sympathy to the family. Paul thought very highly of him and treasured the book that Darrell had written.

February 18 at 4:07 PM



Dana Dillon shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Darrell, A friend is one who comes along
You know not when or why
But they are with you through it all
The tears the hurt the joy
It does not matter when we met
Or how much time we had
I found a life long friend in you
For that I'm truly glad
You showed to me a love of life
That was so pure of heart
For one who lived in HELL so long
They did not take your heart
I will not forget you friend
The times we sat and talked
The lessons that I learned from you
The lessons of the heart
So go in peace
And be at rest
Your time here was fulfilled
You left a lifelong legacy
A hero and a friend
RIP Dana Dillon



February 18 at 12:07 PM



David Galotto posted:

A true stand up guy i had many good talks with him down at the newsroom growing up and he was a true pleasure to talk to always had a good solid handshake and a how are you for me and was well liked by all not many men like him around nowadays...a true american hero and friend

February 18 at 3:08 PM



Shirley Bergeron lit a candle in honor of Darrell.



February 18 at 2:33 PM



Tribute Wall

Darrell D Stark

SB

Shirley Bergeron posted:

My prayers and sympathy to the family..He was a great man....

February 18 at 2:33 PM

LH

Lou Harris posted:

Darrel was the man I have ever met in my life time I will miss you my friend lou harris

February 18 at 2:22 PM

TH

Tom Hine posted:

Mr. Stark was a great person in so many ways. He was my baseball coach over 30 years ago...The Hawks. He always remembered me. Hearing him speak in later years only added to the awe I had for him. He was a great inspiration to many, and I consider myself among those lucky people.

February 18 at 12:45 PM

PR

Pat Rossi lit a candle in honor of Darrell.

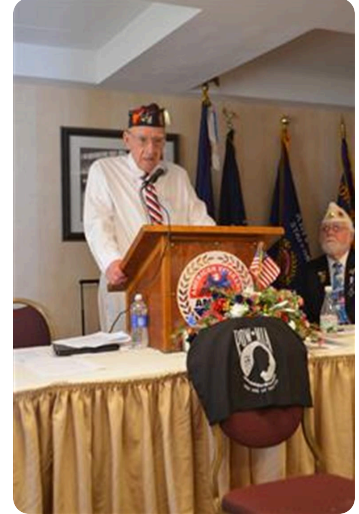


February 18 at 12:07 PM



Dana Dillon shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 18 at 3:25 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Darrell by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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