



## ROLAND LEONARD SPARLING

June 6, 1939 - February 8, 2023

MEMORIAL DONATIONS MAY BE MADE IN ROLAND'S NAME TO:

NEW HOPE FOOD PANTRY  
MILTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
316 DOVER-MILTON ROAD  
OAK RIDGE, NJ. 07438

MEMORIAL SERVICE:  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023  
2PM  
MILTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
316 DOVER MILTON ROAD  
MILTON, NEW JERSY  
973-697-3194

Roland L. Sparling, 83 years, of Oak Ridge, NJ, passed away on Wednesday, February 8, 2023.

He was born on June 6, 1939 in Trenton, NJ to the late Helen R. (nee Murphy) and the late Roland F. Sparling.

Roland graduated from Trenton State College in 1961, receiving his Bachelors

Degree to Teach Physical Education.

From 1961 to 1988, Roland was a Physical Education Teacher and Coach at Jefferson Township Public Schools. In 1995 he started his second career as the Recreation Director for the township of Jefferson creating many notable programs and fields for the youth and citizens of Jefferson. He retired from this position in 2010.

Throughout the years, Roland volunteered for many Jefferson Township Community events.

In his spare time, Roland enjoyed fishing, gardening, camping, and reading.

Roland was predeceased by his first wife Joan in 1984 and his second wife Madelyn in 2014; his mother Helen in 1998; his father Roland in 1987; his brother Frank Sparling in 2000, and his son-in-law Ervin Shipps in 2008.

He is survived by his loving children Rick Sparling and his spouse Jodie; Joy Patterson and her spouse Mark, Jill Anderson and her spouse James, and Jeri Ships; his cherished grandchildren April Sparling and her spouse Taylor, Joseph Sparling and his spouse Bridget, Megan Patterson and her spouse Oana, Becky Patterson, Eileen Anderson and her spouse Brandon, Robert Anderson, Cody, Dylan, and Paul H. Shipps; his one adored great grandchild Dean Richard Sparling, his sisters Helen Kramer, and Edith Clair, as well as many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will take place on Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 2pm at the Milton United Methodist Church, 316 Dover Milton Road, Milton, NJ 07438.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in Roland's name to the

New Hope Food Pantry, Milton United Methodist Church, 316 Dover-Milton Road, Oak Ridge, NJ.07438.

On line condolences and directions to the church: [www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com](http://www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

FEB **25**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Milton United Methodist Church  
316 Dover-Milton Road  
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438  
(973) 697-3194

# Tribute Wall

TT

“ *Terri Tallale lit a candle in memory of  
ROLAND SPARLING*



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**Terri Sparling Tallale** - February 22, 2023 at 10:28 PM

GR

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Roland's passing. He was a kind hearted  
sole who looked out for all of us. We always referred to him as our  
John Wayne of Recreation. He always did the right thing for people  
and always had the peoples' interests at heart. He will be missed.  
My heart goes out to the family. I wish you all well and will keep you  
in my prayers.*

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**Grace Rhinesmith** - February 22, 2023 at 06:20 PM

DM

“ *Mr.Sparling's dedication to Jefferson spanned so many years. Hank  
& I met him at JTHS as a student. I than went onto work with him as  
Recreation Director when I was a Councilwoman. He was old  
school, a polite ,soft spoken man.When he was on a athletic field  
you couldn't miss him. Such enthusiasm along with patience to  
explanation.  
Thank you for your time, knowledge and guidance.*

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**Debi Merz-Bennett** - February 16, 2023 at 05:07 PM

EO

“ *Ellen Olivieri lit a candle in memory of  
ROLAND SPARLING*



Ellen Olivieri - February 12, 2023 at 11:22 AM

RO

“ *Many memories for Mr. Sparling from the Opiekun family. He was on my Dad's staff at Milton School for Phys Ed before JTHS opened. Then of course we had him throughout high school. A memory that always stuck with me was in 8th grade when Bobby Acosta died, he talked to a lot of us that were hurting and really helped. Mr. Sparling made the world a little better for all students.*

Robert Opiekun - February 10, 2023 at 08:58 PM

BW

*A good man who was with me most my adolescent years (gym teacher, soccer coach, Boy Scout leader) Mr. Sparling was in my life and also a cute story with my son as Santa. He will forever be in my heart as God surely blessed him on this Earth.*

Bobby Watson - February 13, 2023 at 04:12 PM

SS

“ *So very sorry to hear of your Dad's passing, he was a true gentleman and good friend. Thoughts and prayers are with you....*



Sue Sofio - February 09, 2023 at 11:32 AM

SS

“ *Sue Sofio lit a candle in memory of ROLAND SPARLING*



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**Sue Sofio** - February 09, 2023 at 11:28 AM