



Edward "Ed" Rutter

August 8, 1941 - September 20, 2025

Edward "Ed" Rutter died peacefully at his home in Annville on Saturday, September 20, 2025, surrounded by his family. He was 84.

After graduating from Lebanon High School, Ed enlisted in the U.S. Navy and sailed on the USS Mullinnix DD-944 during the Cuban Missile Crisis in the early 1960s. During his military service, he earned a commendation for discovering a new sonar signal from a Soviet Union submarine.

He later worked as a Lebanon County deputy sheriff, a Pennsylvania state constable and as Lebanon County court administrator, the job he said was the best he ever had.

In retirement, Ed was a beloved hospice volunteer in Lebanon County for more than a decade.

Ed had a boundless, lifelong love of learning and challenging the workings of the world. He was a lifelong Cincinnati Reds fan and an avid reader who loved history, antiques, politics and wildlife. He had a knack for almost anything creative, including singing, writing, drawing and acting.

Ed starred in countless plays and musicals, mainly at the Lebanon Community Theatre, including On Golden Pond, A Christmas Carol, It's a Wonderful Life,

Taming of the Shrew and Best Little Whorehouse in Texas. After he retired from the stage, he enjoyed returning to LCT as a yearly season ticket holder.

Ed was predeceased by his wife, Peggy, to whom he was married for more than 45 years. He missed her every day since her passing in 2010.

Despite this, he would be the first to tell you he had a blessed life. Ed was like no one else, and his absence has left a void for those who love him.

In addition to his beloved dog Cocoa, he is survived by his son Chris Rutter (Keri) and daughter Jessica Rutter (Pat), sister Brenda Smith, as well as four granddaughters: Nicole Geesey (Al), Jenna Wise (Ben), Carly Klein (Noah), and Lani Wise.

A private memorial service will be held at the convenience of his family.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Ed's memory to: Hospice & Community Care (685 Good Drive PO Box 4125, Lancaster, PA 17604), the Lebanon Community Theatre (PO Box 592 LEBANON, PA 17042), or the Humane Society of Lebanon County (150 North Ramona Road, Myerstown, PA 17067).

Tribute Wall

RG

“ I was just watching a movie on TV and remembered how much fun he and I had in playing opposing roles in the musical the movie was based on. I had the great fortune to play opposite him a few times and to see him on stage and enjoy his performances from the seats. He was a great friend, and will be missed and remembered. See you down the road, “Ed Earl.”

Rodney Gernert - November 28, 2025 at 11:21 PM

JB

“ Oh my, I just found out of Ed’s passing. He was a good friend and we had such a wonderful time singing together. He will be missed. You have my profound sympathy. Jeanette Beck

Jeanette Beck - October 29, 2025 at 10:09 PM

GH

“ I worked in a different county department, but for many years I regularly had interactions with Ed. My condolences to the family. May you experience the Peace of God during your time of loss.

Gary Heuer - September 26, 2025 at 10:10 AM

BD

Chris, Jessica and family, It’s been so many years since we last met. I last saw your dad years ago shortly after your mom passed. I was in visiting my family. Still remember all the times we’d get together when you kids were young. Life, distance changes possibilities. Please know your dad, mom and both of you are all in our forever thoughts! Please accept our condolences from Michele (Heim-Kneasel) & Nicole (Heim) and myself, Betty (now in Austin, TX).

Betty DeJong - October 08, 2025 at 11:57 AM