

Raymond W. Strang

Raymond W. Strang was born on December 26, 1931 in Poughkeepsie, New York to Walter and Mary (Pilch) Strang. He grew up in Columbia County, attended Chatham elementary and High School and worked on farms during the summer. His father, who drove a tractor trailer, passed away when he was in his teens.

On January 11, 1949 Raymond enlisted for three years in the United States Army at Albany, New York. After basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey and additional training at Camp Pickett, he was assigned overseas and served in Germany.

Corporal Raymond Strang was trained with the military police and served as a prison guard for the next three years. During this time one of the first major international crises of the Cold War resulted in Corporal Raymond Strang being assigned temporary duty (TDY) in Berlin. The Soviet Union blocked the Western Allies railway and road access to sectors of Berlin, thus giving them control over the entire city. In response, the Western Allies organized the "Berlin Airlift" to carry supplies to the people in West Berlin resulting in 200,000 flights in one year. Corporal Raymond Strang was discharged at Fort Jay, New York on September 2, 1952. He was awarded the Army Occupation Medal (Germany).

Raymond returned home and on January 30, 1953 married Margaret Scholl in Rhinebeck, New York. In the ensuing years they raised five children: Richard, Keith, Ronald, Donna and Lonnie. Ray worked at the Hudson River Psychiatric Hospital and retired from W. B. McGuire's. He enjoyed hunting and was a member of the VFW Post #7765, where he served on the Honor Guard.

Raymond passed away on July 17, 2010 and was buried in Linlithgo Cemetery. He leaves behind a loving wife, Margaret, three children, 12 grandchildren and 13 great grand children. He was 78 years old.