



## SSgt Ralph H. Bode

July 24, 1924 - September 27, 1944

### SSgt-Ralph H. Bode

Ralph was born in Kenosha, WI on July 24, 1924, the son of Alfred and Lydia Bode.

He was an adventurous spirit, loving photography and travel. After graduating from Washington Park High School, Racine, WI "Class of 1942", Ralph enlisted in the Army Air Corps serving during World War II and was assigned to the 700th Bombardment Squadron, 445th Bombardment group and was based in Tibenham England. He served as the tail gunner on the B-24 Liberator.

On September 27, 1944, while on a bombing mission to Kassel Germany Ralph's plane was shot down at 10:03 a.m. over Reichelsdorf Germany. After many years of uncertainty about his whereabouts, his body was finally recovered and returned home.

Ralph is survived by his niece, Tena (nee: Bode) Kruger and her husband, Jeff, grandnephew, Collin Kruger, cousins, Mary Welles of Rochester N.Y., and Joan Seidl of Manitowoc, WI.

Ralph's long-awaited homecoming with full military honors will be held on Friday, September 27, 2024, promptly at 10:03 a.m. at Graceland Cemetery next to his parents, brother and other family members.

For those wishing to attend services, including but not limited to military personnel, civilians or anyone wishing to honor Ralph's heroism and sacrifice, please meet at the entrance of Graceland cemetery no later than 9:30 a.m.

The family would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency for their unceasing search & recovery efforts. And a special thank you also to the Patriot Guard Riders for their sincere respect for our fallen heroes.

## Cemetery Details

### Graceland Cemetery

Racine, WI

## Previous Events

### Funeral Service

SEP 27. 10:03 AM (CT)

Graceland Cemetery  
Racine, WI

# Tribute Wall



“ Thank you Ralph for your sacrifice for this country and the free world. May you and your crew rest in God’s eternal grace. From the son of a B-24 pilot.

Dale Schieman - September 29, 2024 at 08:22 PM



“ Lori G lit a candle in memory of Ralph Bode



Lori G - September 26, 2024 at 05:29 PM



“ Ken & Sue Fox from Wustum Ave

sf - September 25, 2024 at 06:28 PM



“ Thank you for your sacrifice and service.  
Welcome home.  
Rest in peace

Christine - September 20, 2024 at 03:46 AM



“ Welcome home Staff Sergeant Ralph H. Bode!!

Michael Kroes - September 19, 2024 at 08:03 AM

RG

“ *To the family and friends, so sorry for your loss. Rest Easy Hero. Randy Gumkowski (INPGR)*



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**Randy Gumkowski** - August 23, 2024 at 09:57 AM

JP

“ *I read his obituary and I'm so sorry for the families laws. He was a real hero of World War II.*

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**jerry Ptaschinski** - August 19, 2024 at 02:29 PM