



Chase, Richard Ralph

1935-2025

By Messenger Staff

on September 09, 2025

Richard Ralph Chase, 89, of Willard, Ohio, passed away on Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025, at the Willows at Willard. He was born on Dec. 26, 1935, in Norwalk, Ohio, to the late Herman Mason and Olive (Earle) Chase, the oldest of five siblings.

Richard was a 1953 graduate of Willard High School, and was a member of Grace Methodist Church. He proudly served in the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard for 13 years, and was an American Airlines pilot for almost 30 years. Richard began his Air Force career as an aviation cadet and received a reserve commission as a 2nd Lt. He then attended navigator school and was assigned as a C-118 Navigator at McGuire AFB, NJ. He was later selected to attend undergraduate pilot training and then trained as a C-130 pilot. After C-130 training he was assigned to Charleston AFB, SC. He left active duty to join American Airlines but served another three years flying KC-97 tankers in Milwaukee, WI in the Wisconsin ANG. His commercial career with

American Airlines spanned almost 30 years. He was primarily based at Chicago's O'Hare Airport but spent time at American's training facility in DFW as an instructor and later fleet manager of the 757/767 fleet when he retired. At American he flew the B-727, B-707, MD-80, DC-10, and the B757/767.

In Texas, where he retired, he flew a Commonwealth Sky Ranger and his 1942 Stearman bi-plane, complete with helmet and goggles. He was a beloved Sunday school teacher, an accomplished story teller and well known for his dry sense of humor. He was active in Wise County Veterans and politics, and served as county judge from 2002 to 2006.

He enjoyed his family and friends and loved sharing his deep faith in God. He had the joy of sharing 60 years with his wife, and knowing his kids and grandkids also knew Christ. He was especially courageous and loving in the last years of his life. A special thanks to the staff at The Willows at Willard who not only took exceptional care of him, but loved him and treated his family as their own.

He is survived by his son, Richard (Jean) Chase II of Celeryville, Ohio; daughter, Ginny Chase of Willard; two grandchildren, Brad (Mako) Chase of Kyoto, Japan, and Amy Chase (Joel) Ashley of Canal Winchester, Ohio; two sisters, Grace Chase Vance and Dorothy "Dottie" Chase Turner; as well as a sister-in-law and two brothers-in-law; and nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy (Schryer); two brothers, Robert Chase and John Chase; and several in-laws.

Services will take place in Ohio. Memorial contributions may be made to Grace Methodist Church or the Willows at Willard. Online condolences may be made to Richard's family by visiting www.secorthfuneralhomes.com.