



## Mr. William R. Ray Sr.

August 21, 1932 - July 26, 2020

Mr. William Roosevelt Ray, Sr., was born August 21, 1932, to Ms. Jessie Powell and Mr. Sammy Ray in Milan, Tennessee.

William grew up in Milan, moved to Trenton and later to Jackson, Tennessee. He was a proud graduate of Rosenwald High School (1952). William was very athletic and excelled in basketball, football and track. He was inducted into the Gibson County Sports Hall of Fame April 6, 2018. William began his studies at Tennessee State University before enlisting in the US Army and received an honorable discharge.

William accepted Christ as his personal Lord and Savior and was baptized at an early age. He was a faithful member of First Baptist in Trenton until his health failed. He served as a deacon, usher and loved to share stories with the youth. William also actively served at the Bethlehem #2 Baptist Church.

William retired from Milan Arsenal and worked part-time at the University School of Jackson. He loved to attend church, travel, go out to eat, and spend time with family. William really loved his family and friends. He was extremely outgoing, had an engaging personality and had that signature smile! William was very fashionable and loved wearing suits and hats. Oh, how he loved his watches.

In his early years, William married Ms. Shirley Ewell. To this union four children were born in which one preceded him in death.

William fought a good fight and departed this life peacefully on Sunday, July 26, 2020.

He leaves to cherish his precious memories: Frankie--his loving and devoted wife of nearly 32 years; children--William R. "Bubba" (Charlotte) Ray, Jr. of Bartlett, Tennessee; Tina Ray (Prentice) Doaks of Antioch, Tennessee and Daphyne Ray of Nashville, Tennessee; two step-children—Geraldine (Keith) McBride of Collierville and Kenneth W. (Cheryl) Spivey of Jackson; two godchildren—Alan (Tiffany) Spivey of Jackson and Lisa (Terrell) Brooks of Denmark; grandchildren—Ryan and Chloe Ray of Memphis; Johnathan (Markeyta) Doaks of Dallas, TX, and Chelsea Doaks of Brooklyn, NY; Keith McBride II of Collierville; Mia and Mya Spivey of Jackson; Janessa, Bradley, and Jeremy Joy of Nashville and Yaden Taylor also of Nashville; sister-in-law Betty (Ray) Woods of Henderson; brothers-in-law Larry (Brenda) Spivey of Jackson and

# Cemetery Details

## Tenn. State Veterans Cemetery at Parkers Crossroads

593 Wildersville Road  
Wildersville , TN 38388

# Previous Events

## Service

JUL 31. 11:00 AM (CT)

Stephenson-Shaw Funeral Home, Inc.  
807 N. Hays Avenue  
Jackson, TN 38301  
(731) 427-7411  
info@stephenson-shaw.com  
<https://www.stephenson-shaw.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Stephenson-Shaw Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mr. William R. Ray Sr.*



**Stephenson-Shaw Funeral Home, Inc** - July 31, 2020 at 10:56 AM

BE

*To GOD be the glory...I can earnestly say that I have known Ray all of my life. Ms. Jessie (his Mom) was like a second Mom to us, simply because she was one of my Mother's dearest friends. Ray was a neighbor to us for years. I love William R. Ray Sr. ("Ray" was who we always referred to him). Ray is a long time extended family member of the Tydus and Daisy Green family. Even after we left Trenton, Ray would constantly check on Daisy and Tydus Green...making sure that their needs were met, if possible. We love each of you. Ms. Frankie, Bubba, Tina, Daphne please know, that we loved "Ray" and we will continue to pray for your strength. Please lean on the everlasting arms of Jesus Christ who can and will heal all sorrows. On behalf of our entire (Greene) family, "You are loved". Rest in PEACE, Ray. Sincerely, Dr. Beverly (Greene) Mathis*

**Beverly** - July 31, 2020 at 12:34 PM

BE

*I am so thankful that I could share in the Beautiful service this morning...2,000 miles away. GOD is GOOD. Bev. Mathis*

**Beverly** - July 31, 2020 at 12:35 PM

SF

*Beautiful Homegoing*

**Sebrina Franks** - July 31, 2020 at 01:48 PM



“ *Mr. William R. Ray Sr.*

January 28, 2023 at 12:37 PM



“ *Sarah Goyer lit a candle in memory of Mr. William R. Ray Sr.*



**Sarah Goyer** - November 23, 2020 at 09:02 AM



“ *To Frankie and the rest of my family,  
Lord at the moment nothing will seem to help for the loss that they are feeling. Their hearts are broken and their spirits mourn. But we know your GRACE is sufficient This day, this hour, moment to moment the family will choose to lean on you. In their weakest moments we know that your STRENGTH God is the strongest. As they pour out their grief to you Oh GOD let their pain and sorrow be replaced with PRAISE giving their weary hearts rest and their minds a sound sleep. Let their hearts and minds always be filled with the sweet memories of the times they shared with Ray on his journey in this life.  
Let my family be comforted by the promise of heaven in Christ Jesus name.  
AMEN*

**Sebrina Franks** - July 31, 2020 at 11:04 AM

SF

“ Sebrina Franks lit a candle in memory of Mr. William R. Ray Sr.



Sebrina Franks - July 31, 2020 at 10:42 AM

CA

“ Mrs. Frankie, We were very sorry to hear of Mr. Ray's passing. We enjoyed visiting with Mr. Ray at the nursing home when visiting with Mrs. Spivey. You and your entire family are in our prayers. John 14:1

Minister Paul & Carolyn Fuller & Family

Carolyn - July 30, 2020 at 11:09 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. William R. Ray Sr..



July 30, 2020 at 04:48 PM

DC

“ D. Ray's Hotline Crew purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Mr. William R. Ray Sr..



D. Ray's Hotline Crew - July 30, 2020 at 11:12 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. William R. Ray Sr..*



July 29, 2020 at 10:13 AM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Mr. William R. Ray Sr..*



July 28, 2020 at 10:36 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mr. William R. Ray Sr..*



July 28, 2020 at 10:26 PM



“ *My condolences go out to the family of William.*

**Lee** - July 28, 2020 at 08:19 AM



*Always pleasant & ready to laugh. Never without his short-brim hat. He will be remembered for along time.*

**Willie G** - July 28, 2020 at 08:08 PM