



CMSGT Lowell H. Ray (Ret.)

November 13, 1939 - August 21, 2021

USAF CMSGT Lowell H. Ray (Ret.), age 81, passed away peacefully Saturday, August 21, 2021.

Born November 13, 1939 in Farmersville, KY, he was the son of the late Luther and Troy Mae (Sills) Ray. From modest beginnings on a small Kentucky farm with cardboard in the soles of his shoes to cover the holes, he exemplified “pulled himself up by his bootstraps”. Mr. Ray retired after over 20 distinguished years serving our country, including his time with the 353rd Air Force Training Squadron at Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, SC which supported the Korat Royal Air Base in Thailand during Vietnam. He served at the Weisbaden AFB in Erbenheim, Germany and the US Embassy in Ankara, Turkey. He retired with a rank of US Air Force Chief Master Sergeant. He loyally served as a crewmember on Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews Maryland during the Nixon and Ford Administrations.

He served as an executive with South Carolina National Bank. He continued to support his fellow troops working at PGBA Myrtle Beach with military health claim administration. Many remember him as a friendly face with Auto Zone and Advance Auto Parts following his retirement. Mr. Ray loved to be with kids and worked for Burroughs and Chapin at Jurassic Mini Golf in his late years.

A longtime member of Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, he served as an

usher. He loved hunting and horses and never missed watching the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs.

Always putting his family first, he was one of the good ones. A devoted father and husband, he cherished his wife, Judy. After their many years of marriage, he once quoted Clint Eastwood saying "Love like this happens but once in a lifetime." He and his wife were residents of Conway, SC for over 35 years.

Along with his parents, Lowell was predeceased by a brother, Kenneth Ray and a sister, Hilda (Ray) Bass.

Surviving are his beloved wife of 60 years, Judy (Causey) Ray of Myrtle Beach; his twin sons, Donnie Alton Ray and wife, Love Lee (Beacham) Ray and Ronnie Austin Ray and wife, Susie Byers Ray; a daughter, Pamela (Ray) Baxter and wife Emily Baxter; four grandchildren Joshua Taylor, Joey Baxter, Kylie Baxter, and Marjorie Gilliam; and a sister, Rebecca (Ray) Alvey and husband Michael Alvey.

Visitation will be held at 10:00 AM with funeral services at 11:00 AM Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel with Pastor Dr. Hank Corcoran officiating. Burial with full Military Honors will be held at Hillcrest Cemetery in Conway across from Coastal Carolina University.

To view the service via livestream, please click the link below.

<https://vimeo.com/592191539>

Following the graveside service, the family will receive friends for refreshments and fellowship at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church on Highway 501. All are welcome.

Memorial donations may be made to The Horry County Salvation Army via website:

<https://give.salvationarmycarolinas.org>

or by mail: The Salvation Army – Carolinas, 501 Archdale Drive, Charlotte, NC 28217

888-411-2769.

Please sign the online guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is in charge of arrangements. A special thank you is extended to the care team at Brightwater, and Lazelle's Flower Shop.

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Cemetery

1000 Hwy 544
Conway, SC 29526
(843) 347-4909
<https://www.hillcrestcemetery.com/>

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 25. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel
606-610 Beaty Street
Conway, SC 29526

Funeral Service

AUG 25. 11:00 AM (ET)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel
606-610 Beaty Street
Conway, SC 29526

Tribute Wall

BM

“ A dear friend gone to soon. I will always cherish the times we all had at Mr. Waffles . A really good man . He will be soo missed. My prayers and condolences to you all. RIP Mr. Ray



Betty Ann Messer - August 27, 2021 at 10:40 PM

PB

“ Thank you for always being there no matter what happened. Thank you for being my role model and my superhero. Thank you most of all for the laughter and the smiles.

Get some rest now poppa.

With all my love,
Pamela
XOXO



Pamela Ray Baxter - August 26, 2021 at 02:00 AM

RR

thats my DADDY and he is the GREATEST.

RONNIE A RAY - May 10, 2025 at 02:19 PM

RR

“ It was a real honor to be your son Ronnie Austin Ray

Ronnie Austin Ray - August 25, 2021 at 08:42 AM

MB

“ *Margie Bass purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of CMSGT Lowell H. Ray (Ret.).*



Margie Bass - August 24, 2021 at 03:33 PM

GM

“ *I always have fond memories of Lowell ushering at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, he was a faithful loving servant of God. He holds a special place in my heart. my heart goes out to his wife and family.*
/

Gayne McDonnell - August 24, 2021 at 02:14 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of CMSGT Lowell H. Ray (Ret.).*



August 24, 2021 at 09:31 AM

CP

“ *Uncle Ray I will miss you, rest easy your loyalty and work here on earth are done. Thank you for serving our great USA. What an impact you made on so many family and friends. Love you and please tell my mom Janice I love and miss her. Until I see you again may the lord bless you.*

Claudette Parker - August 23, 2021 at 08:08 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of CMSGT Lowell H. Ray (Ret.).



August 23, 2021 at 03:55 PM