



## Ray Ernest McDowell

February 8, 1944 - May 24, 2026

Ray Ernest McDowell, 82, of Conway, South Carolina, passed away on Sunday, May 24, 2026, in his home.

Ray was born and raised in Conway and was the son of the late Ernest Pink McDowell and Menter Chestnut McDowell.

A proud patriot, Ray joined the United States Air Force in 1962 and honorably served for 20 years before retiring in 1982. Military service remained a source of pride throughout Ray's life.

In addition to his parents, Ray was preceded in death by a brother, Albert Ernest McDowell.

Ray is survived by a devoted wife of 62 years, Nora "Jo" Leigh McDowell, two daughters, Sherry and her husband Robert "Bob" Hauser, and Michelle McDowell; a brother Buster and his wife Maxine McDowell; two grandchildren, Matthew Lee and Savannah Lee.

Known for a kind heart and a willingness to help others, Ray made a lasting impact on the Conway community. Ray owned and operated Ray and Jo's Country store on Hwy 90 for many years where lasting friendships were formed. Ray later retired from Combraco concluding a long and dedicated

work life.

Graveside service will be held at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, May 31, 2026, at Hillcrest Cemetery with Full Military Honors provided by the U.S. Air Force, Joint Base Charleston. Burial will follow, directed by Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel.

The family will receive friends at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel on Sunday, May 31, 2026, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm.

Ray will be remembered for his kindness, strong work ethic, love of family, and service to country and community.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY **31**. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Goldfinch Funeral Home  
606-610 Beaty Street  
Conway, SC 29526  
(843) 248-4211  
info@goldfinchfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com>

## Graveside Service

MAY **31**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Hillcrest Cemetery  
1000 Highway 544  
Conway, SC 29526

# Tribute Wall

KA

“ Our sincere condolences for the loss of your loved one. May fond memories and earnest prayer bring comfort for family and friends at this time.

*Isaiah 41:13*

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**Kathryn** - May 29 at 06:06 PM

KM

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Uncle Rays passing. Just know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. May you find strength in the love that surrounds you and comfort in your memories.

*~Kim Starnes-Mickow*

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**Kim (Starnes) Mickow** - May 28 at 09:32 PM

GL

“ I am so sorry to hear of Uncle Ray's passing. My sympathies to the family.

*Gloria Stewart*



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**Gloria** - May 28 at 08:18 PM

DP

“ I'm so sorry. Prayers for family and friends.

Prayers 🤍🙏

*Doris Boyd Piver*



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**Doris Piver** - May 28 at 06:21 PM

DP

“ *Don Pridgen lit a candle in memory of Ray Ernest McDowell*



Don Pridgen - May 27 at 03:43 PM

MD

“ *Mike & Donovan purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ray Ernest McDowell.*



Mike & Donovan - May 27 at 03:17 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to the family and friends of Ray. Love and prayers for each of you.*



Linda Hipp - May 27 at 12:26 PM

ED

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Ray's passing. It was a pleasure to have met him through working at the bank and I loved getting to help him and speak with him often. He always had a smile on his face and always put a smile on my face. He will be greatly missed.*

Erin Dean - May 27 at 12:14 PM

EM

“ I am so very sorry to hear of Ray’s passing. He was a great friend and the most thoughtful man I have known. He loved his family especially Jo. He was so devoted to taking the best care of her. He was also a great friend to various veterans in the area. Ray will surely be missed.

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**Elaine Montgomery** - May 27 at 12:08 PM