



Harry Edwin Ray

August 29, 1943 - April 18, 2011

Harry Edwin Ray, 67, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Shelby, AL on Monday, April 18. He was born August 29, 1943 in Troy, AL. Harry was preceded in death by his mother and father, Gwendolyn Richburg Ray and Henry Luther Ray. He was the beloved husband of Annette, the proud father of Michelle Smith, and the cherished Papa of Veronica and Isabelle Smith. He is also survived by his brother Larry and his wife Pam and sister in law Michele Palmer. In 1961, Harry graduated from Charles Henderson High School in Troy, Alabama. He was a star athlete in Track and Field which earned him a scholarship to attend the University of Missouri. He was the Alabama State mile champion in 1961. After high school, Harry attended the University of Missouri – Columbia where he held the track record for the mile. He graduated in 1966 with a degree in physical education. He continued to support the Track and Field program as a member of the Alumni Association. After college he was drafted by the US Army where he served proudly as a Field Artillery Officer. He was deployed to Babenhausen, Germany. His daughter was born on his birthday in Frankfort, Germany during his deployment. He continued to support our troops and was a member of the American Legion. Harry began playing guitar with his father at a very young age. He was a gifted musician, playing several instruments, but mostly played electric guitar. He was a member of several bands throughout the years, including Cindy and the Cotton Kings. He was a member of the Magic City Blues Society and went out to support local bands. Harry's career was in the

construction industry. He began as a carpenter and would become a construction supervisor. He came to Alabama to build Inverness Country Club and later worked for a civil engineer doing public works projects. He retired from Tucker Engineering in 2005. Hobbies included fishing and dancing. He was an avid fisherman and often made trips to lakes in Georgia and Florida. He collected guns and spent many hours target shooting. He was a member of the National Rifle Association. He loved to dance. He was a member of the Magic City Boppers and attended dances here in Birmingham as well as Columbus, GA and Panama City, FL. He had motorcycles when he was younger and raced motocross. He was always generous of his time and talents. Harry leaves behind a host of friends that will miss him dearly. A memorial service celebrating Harry's life is set for 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 26, 2011 at Bolton Funeral Home Chapel, 207 Highway 47 South, in Columbiana, Alabama. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Memorial Fund/Tiger Scholarship Fund, Track Program, 1 Champion Drive, Suite 200, Columbia, MO 65211 (www.missouri.edu) or to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, 386 Park Avenue South, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10016 (www.cdfa.org). Please sign online condolences at www.boltonfuneralhome.com. Bolton Funeral Home directing.

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Tribute Wall

EA

“ Our thoughts and prayers go to Harry's family and Larry and his friends. Harry was a great competitor and a true individual and I know he will be missed. Eric Alexander Bend, Oregon Fellow member of the MU track team

eric alexander - April 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ Annette, I just learned about Harry. I am so very sorry. Please know that you and your family are in my thoughts. I will sorely miss one of my favorite dance partners, especially when I hear a real fast one.

Pat McCarron - April 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ Annette and Family, We are so sorry for the loss of Harry. We loved and enjoyed him so much. We will miss him dearly. Our daughter, Kenna, spoke of Harry often about how much she liked dancing with him at the Oct Bop Gathering. Cy and I are so sorry that we were unable to attend the Memorial. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. With Deepest Sympathy and Love, Gail and Cy

Cy and Gail Lisenby - April 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EA

“ Annette, Just a note to let you know that you and family are in my prayers. If I can be of any assistance during this difficult time, please call or email me at 929-3518 or eanthony@lawsonstate.edu
Elijah Anthony

Elijah Anthony - April 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

JANET RUFFIN - April 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ With fond and wonderful memories of Harry at Missouri and in Germany we send our love and condolences.

Joan & Carl Lingle - April 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ To Annette and the entire Ray Family we send our deepest sympathy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of sorrow. God Bless you and give you the strength you need to get you through this sorrowful time.

Bubba & Phyllis Marshall - April 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ I am so saddened. I will miss this special cousin very much.

Nina Ray Hamm - April 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ Dear Annette, I am so, so sorry to hear about Harry. What a great loss. People were always crazy about Harry and so many of us have such wonderful memories of our high school days. In my opinion he was the best dancer anywhere around. He was so kind and generous to send me some of the C.D's of our high school reunion music. Please accept my condolences. Sut

Carol H. Ruch - April 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *Annette and Family, Harry was a very special person who shared his love of music and dance with us all. We will miss him so very much. We love you, Charlotte and Freddie*

Charlotte Sh'ar - April 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ *I am so sorry. I loved Harry like a brother and he always brought a smile to my face. Also, my most favorite dancing partner in the whole world. I will miss him but dance with him in heaven. My prayers go out to all of his family. Not sure if I can make the memorial service but will be there in spirit. Sincerely and Love, Betsy*

Betsy Herlong Colquett - April 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

HR

“ *Annette and family we send our deepest sympathy. We loved Harry and will remember him with his happy smile and happy feet whenever he danced. We are planning on being at the memorial on Tue. Take care and Love, Herschel & Mary Ann*

Herschel & Mary Ann Rich - April 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ *To Annetta, Roy and I are so sorry for your loss. Harry was a great friend and he will be dearly missed, especially from all his Cols. Bopping Friends. We'll always remember how so very much he loved to Bop with all of his Bopping Friends. Your in our thoughts and prayers always. Love, Roy & Janice Ward, PC.GROUP, Cols. Ga.*

Roy & Janice ward - April 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ To Annetta, Roy and I are so sorry for your loss. Harry was a great friend and he will be dearly missed, especially from all his Cols. bopping friends. Your in our thoughts and prayers always. Love, Roy & Janice Ward,PC.GROUP

Roy & Janice Ward - April 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ It is with such sadness that I send my condolences to you Annette. I will miss so much seeing the both of you on the dance floor. I know you and your family are heart broken and I pray that God will lay his healing hands upon you and your family and be with you during this time of great sorrow.

Jackie Harbuck - April 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ May you hve peace and wonderful memories. Harry was a pleasure to be around.

Ray & Shirley Hereford - April 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ We are sending our deepest sympathy to you all. Let us know if there is anything you need. Our hearts share in the sadness of your loss and will always hold a special place for Harry. Sending all our love, Duann & Jamie

Duann Thistlethwaite - April 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ SO SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR LOST PRAYING FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

MICHAEL & STACEY JONES - April 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CM

“*I ain't hardly got the words*”

Chuck & Ruth McCulloh - April 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM