



## Rufus Ray,

January 8, 1937 - April 28, 2011

Mr. Rufus Franklin Ray, Sr., passed from this mortal existence into eternal life Thursday, April 28, 2011 at his home following a lengthy illness. He was constantly cared for by his loving wife and family during his long home going. He was born in Murray Hollow community near Jewell Ridge, Virginia on January 8, 1937 and was the son of the late Lee Henry and Virgie Ethel Blankenship Ray. He was educated in Tazewell County public schools. Rufus honorably served in the U.S. Army in Berlin, Germany from 1956-1958. He also served in the Virginia Army National Guard from 1958-1964. Rufus married the love of his life, Naomi Horton Ray, on March 21, 1959. In 1959, Rufus went to work in the coal mines and finally retired in 1993 as the owner of Kents Ridge Welding Service. He also worked for Overbay & Brown Hardware, S & S Machinery, Pittston Coal Company, Bek/Tawn Coal Company & Shirl Coal Company. He belonged to the American Legion Post 0208 and was a faithful member of the Richlands Tabernacle. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three sisters, Bonnie Louise Ray Hill, Reba Jean Ray Jackson, and Edith (Cookie) Ray Hess; three brothers, Ralph Cecil Ray, Chester Verby Ray, and Billy Lee Ray. Survivors are: His loving wife of 52 years: Naomi Horton Ray Three Sons: Rufus Franklin Ray, Jr. and wife, Loretta Rose Ray of Belfast, Virginia Dr. Marvin Lee Ray and wife, Betty Horne Ray of Middletown, Ohio Timothy James Ray and wife, Sandra Perkins Ray of Swords Creek, Virginia Six Grandchildren: Franklin Derek Ray and wife Kayla; Brittany Leeann Ray Ringstaff and husband,

Jeremy; Brigitte Nicole Ray, Breanna Lee Ray, Olivia Faith Ray, and James Brent Ray Three Sisters: Eva Ray Houchins and husband, Raymond of Forth Chiswell, Virginia Janice Ray Richardson and husband, Earl of Indianapolis, Indiana Georgia Ray Shepherd and husband, Arnold of Cedar Bluff, Virginia Special Friends: Bernard and Sue Compton; Covey and Nellie Mullins; Bill and Susie Culbertson; Eugene and Verna Wright. Special Care Givers: Brittany Edwards, Melissa White, Dr. Randy Forehand and Employees of Richlands Home Nursing Company Funeral services for Rufus Franklin Ray, Sr. will be conducted Saturday, April 30, 2011 at 2:00 pm at the Richlands Tabernacle, 2500 4th Street, Richlands, Virginia with Pastors Ralph Horton and Robert Osborne officiating. Entombment will follow at Greenhills Memory Gardens Mausoleum at Claypool Hill, Virginia. Members of Casey-Shortt VFW Post #9640 will conduct military graveside rites. Pallbearers will be: Keith Cordle, Randy Cordle, Roy Dale Keene, Richard Keene, Michael Switzer, David Lee Horton, Kevin Grat Horton, J. D. Horton, John Paul Roberts, Jonathan Shepherd, and Joseph Shepherd. Men of the Richlands Tabernacle will serve as Honorary Pallbearers. Friends may call from 6:00pm-9:00pm Friday evening at the Richlands Tabernacle in Richlands, Virginia. Hurst-Scott Funeral Home in Richlands, VA is in charge of arrangements and those wishing to express sympathy online may do so at [www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com](http://www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rufus Ray,*

January 14, 2023 at 04:24 PM



“ *Rufus Ray,*

January 14, 2023 at 02:26 PM



“ *He was a kind hearted man and a sweet patient. Mrs. Ray, you can be comforted to know he is asleep and resting with with the Lord. You can also rest knowing you gave him excellent care in his final days. Bless you!*

**Rayetta Church** - April 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Naomi, I'm so sorry to hear about your husband. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Blessings, Geneva*

**Tommy and Rita Chambers** - April 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *My prayers are with the Ray family. Sandy (Rufus' daughter-in-law) is my best friend and I know how hard this is on the entire family.*

*May God Bless,  
Vanessa (VanDyke) Barker*

**Vanessa Barker** - April 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ Dear Naomi & family,  
We are so sorry to read of the passing of Rufus. God has called him home where he will suffer no more. God has given you lots and lots of memories that will turn into treasures for you and the family. Our love and prayers are with you. Time has a way of healing but you will never forget the memories. May God give you strength to endure the loss of such a sweet person. We love you and wish we could have been there for you. We will never forget you all.

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**Doug & Linda Altizer** - April 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Uncle Rufus was always very kind to me. I remember him from when I was a very young girl. He would look at me kind of out of the corner of his eye with his chin raised a little in the way he did & motion for me to come over. If I gave him a hug, he would hand me a quarter or a piece of candy. I always gave him a hug. Our hugging was a habit we never broke. I hadn't seen Uncle Rufus for a very long time, which I regret, but I'm so glad he's no longer having to struggle to breathe.  
My love, prayers & sympathy go out to Aunt Na, Frankie, Marvin, Tim & their families. I also extend my sympathy to his sisters & all the many people who were close to & loved this sweet man.

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**Michael & Rebecca Harman** - April 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ Uncle Rufus would always light up a room when he came in. His quick wit and humor will be miss. He always had a way with making us feel special. My love and prayers go out to you all.

*"So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy."  
John 16:22*

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**Susan Kappel** - April 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GH

“ *I will be praying that God will comfort you during this time & I would love to be with you but I can't get there.*

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**Glen Allen Hess** - April 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ *Knew Rufus from our freshman English class ..and my husband knew him from business. A very good man..may God be with his family during this time...*

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**Shirley Simmons Dye** - April 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM