



"Ricky" Richard Lawrence Ray

July 16, 1953 - May 5, 2020

Richard Lawrence Ray

It's with great sadness and heavy hearts that the family of Richard (Ricky) Lawrence Ray of Jennings, LA, announces his passing from this life on May 5, 2020, at the Jennings American Legion Hospital. Ricky was a kind soul who loved life and never met a stranger. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Richard was born in Alexandria, LA, on July 16, 1953, to Lawrence Vernon and Julia (Klein) Ray. He was the eldest of five boys. He attended school in Jennings, LA, and was a member of the Jennings High School Class of 1971. He was a proud member of the JHS football team. In 1970, Ricky's life, as he knew it, was changed forever. On a hot summer day, during football practice, Ricky suffered a severe head trauma that left him paralyzed on his left side. This event not only changed the path of Ricky's life, it also changed the direction for his entire family. Ricky was never angry or blamed anyone for this devastating event. If anything, it brought him closer to his faith. His love of God, family and friends had no boundaries. His positive outlook was an inspiration to everyone that had the privilege of knowing him.

In the 1980's, he and his mother, were very active in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. He participated in Special Olympics and was a volunteer for The Muscular Dystrophy Telethon. Ricky became friends with Neville Breaux, President of Head Injury Productions, and was cast as, Trapper, in his play. It was the first time a theatrical production was cast entirely of head injury survivors. The play was performed throughout Louisiana and Texas, primarily at rehab facilities. In 1990, the cast was given the opportunity to perform the play for President George H. W. and Mrs. Barbara Bush in Washington D.C., in conjunction with, National Head Injury Month.

Ricky is preceded in death by his parents and his godchild, Jeffrey Neil Ray. He is survived by his four brothers: Warren(Carol) of Lafayette, Dr. Charles(Kim)Jennings, Glenn(Janet) of Broussard, and Lynn(Dee) of Lafayette, nieces and nephews: Erin,

Lauren, Alex, Morgan, Garrett, Jordan, Jenna, Jillian, Grant, Jorja, Rusty, and Adam, and great-nieces and nephews: Jace, Alyssa, Karly, Russell, Scott, Evelyn, Alaina, Julia, Wesley, William, Wyatt, Emmett, and Carter, very special aunt, Faye Ray Williams of Houston, TX.

Pallbearers are: Warren Ray, Charles Ray, Glenn Ray, Lynn Ray, Adam Ray and Grant Ray.

In compliance with state regulations, private services have been entrusted to Matthews and Son Funeral Home of Jennings, LA, for immediate family only. Graveside Services for Richard will be held at Calvary Cemetery in Jennings, LA on Saturday, May 9, 2020, at 12 noon, with Fr. Charles McMillan from Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church officiating. A gathering of immediate family at Matthews and Son Funeral Home in Jennings, LA on Saturday, May 9, at 10 AM until time of service. The family truly regrets not being able to have everyone, that loved Rick, with us to celebrate his life, and sincerely appreciates your thoughts and prayers

To extend online condolences, please visit our website at www.matthewsandsonfuneralhome.net

Arrangements have been entrusted to Matthews & Son Funeral Home.

Cemetery

Calvary Cemetery

Evangeline Rd.

Jennings, LA, 70546

Events

MAY 9 PRIVATE SERVICE 10:00AM - 11:40AM

9

Matthews and Son Funeral Home - Jennings
511 N. Cutting Ave., Jennings, LA, US, 70546

MAY 9 PRIVATE SERVICE 12:00PM

9

Calvary Cemetery
Evangeline Rd., Jennings, LA, US, 70546

Comments



“ RIP Mr. Ricky. It was a pleasure to know you. Thanks for the laughs. May your beautiful soul rest in peace.

Darla Garrett - May 28, 2020 at 08:13 AM



“ Growing up I always wanted to be like you. You were the best big brother anybody could ever ask for and looked up to. You were a strong, smart and handsome big brother that had so much going for you. Your future was filled with limitless hope and promise. But God had bigger plans for you. More than any of us could have imagined. While at football practice you suffered a brain injury - a blow to the head. You went down and didn't get back up. The sixteen year old athlete who was strong and full of life was unconscious and being rushed to Lafayette General Hospital for surgery to stop the bleeding and your brain from swelling. Your doctors told all of us that you had little chance of surviving. The handsome young man lied still with machines keeping him alive. Months later, after being in a coma you started waking up and showed all of us how our lives would be changed forever. Your left side was paralyzed, your speech was slurred and you had to learn how to walk, talk and function in your new way of life. For the next 50 years you endured emotional, physical and mental pain more than ten strong men could ever endure in a lifetime. Yet you never once complained. God had given you the grace to forgive and to love everyone unconditionally. You showed your brothers how to make the best out of a bad situation. You led all of us through our lives by the examples you set. All the while you silently struggled with life and all the problems it came with from eye, shoulder and more brain surgeries to shaking so badly from your brain injury. You showed all of us the true meaning of life.

I know that you are looking down from heaven keeping a close eye on all of us. You know that we will miss you and look forward to being together again but one thing you have to know is that you were and will always be my hero. I love you Ricky.
Your unworthy brother
Warren

Warren J. Ray - May 11, 2020 at 02:20 PM



“ What a beautiful tribute to your brother. The true meaning of love. Prayers for your family

Pam Benoit - May 13, 2020 at 08:39 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Ray Family during their time of mourning of Ricky. He was a TRUE Bulldog!

Randall "Foo" Fuselier

Randall Fuselier - May 09, 2020 at 02:38 PM



“ I miss you Uncle Rick. Who is going to make me laugh? I love you with all my heart and soul. You made Christmas every year, especially when it was time to play White elephant. Stay close to Jeff and mind Oma and paw paw. I love you

Erin Ray - May 07, 2020 at 03:44 PM



“ WOW this really hurts, I'm really gonna miss you my friend! NOBODY could say "Honey" like you 🥰 I know you are resting in pure peace and that's comforting to know! Until we meet again my friend take your rest, I truly loved you my friend! Warren, Lynn, Glenn, Dr. Ray I will pray for your strength! Jackee Bourne

Jackee Bourne - May 07, 2020 at 05:18 AM



“ I took care of him at the nursing home he was the life of the party over there he was always happy

Damonica Johnson - May 07, 2020 at 09:12 AM



“ Pamela Daigle lit a candle in memory of "Ricky" Richard Lawrence Ray



Pamela Daigle - May 06, 2020 at 09:26 PM



“ I will miss Mr Richard so much he was a blessing to work with. He always had a joke to tell and loved to play and say silly things. He will always remain in my heart.

Laura Plaisance - May 06, 2020 at 09:20 PM



“ Ricky will be truly missed. I was blessed to have worked with Ricky and fell in love immediately. He will always hold a special place in my heart. My prayers are with the family. Fly high Ricky raccoon.

Kristy McBride - May 06, 2020 at 04:22 PM



“ Our sorrow is for your earthly loss but our joy is that Rickey is home with our Lord and his loved ones. May you all be comforted and know that our prayers are with you.
Sincerely,
Judy Bell Broxson

Judy Bell Broxson - May 06, 2020 at 02:39 PM



“ Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of "Ricky" Richard Lawrence Ray.



May 06, 2020 at 12:17 PM