



William Turner "WT" Ray, Jr.

May 28, 1934 - November 23, 2020

Graveside funeral services for William Turner "WT" Ray, Jr., age 86, of Monterey, Tennessee, were conducted on Friday, November 27, 2020, At 10:00 AM at the Whittaker Cemetery in Monterey. Rev. Christine Penner Officiated. Mr. Ray was born on May 28, 1934, in Monterey, Tennessee, to the late William Turner, Sr. and Lillian Pointer Ray. WT boarded the Glory Train and left this life on November 23, 2020. He was blessed to be at his home, Glenview, surrounded by loved ones. He was a graduate of Culver Military Academy and Yale University. He always cited the best education of all- both life in a small mountain town and world travel. He was truly larger than life and rose to meet any opportunity he came across. The list of life accomplishments is long: serving in the United States Army Airborne as a paratrooper, lifelong member of the Monterey United Methodist Church, president of Builder's Supply Company, board member of One Bank of Tennessee, avid snow skier, biker, runner, and patron of University of Tennessee Football. He let it be known his greatest accomplishment was capturing the heart of his wife, Frances McClain Ray, and their nearly 50-year marriage. WT and Franny were a power couple before there was such a thing. They had friends in high places from Monterey to Aspen Mountain, and Nashville to Florence, Italy. Franny says, "He always had his go britches on" and was as likely to be seen at the Super Bowl as on Park Avenue or driving Highway 70 in his El Camino. They were known far and wide for their dinners and parties. WT's wit coupled with Franny's seamless willingness to hostess was legendary. WT always had

the most fun and would sneak off to bed first, ready to roll again at first light. Quick with a joke, WT never met a stranger and would treat anyone who came through his door as family. He was able to talk his way in or out of any situation he found necessary or just fun. He was preceded in death by his parents, William Turner, Sr. and Lillian Ray; his brother, Jack Ray; and his nephew Jack Ray, Jr. Survivors include his wife, Franny; sister-in-law, Donna Ray; nieces, Elizabeth (Dr. Timothy) Fournet, Autumn Phillips, and Malone Cloitre; nephew, Nevett Steele; as well as great nephews, Ammon (Ashton) Hitchcock, William Hitchcock, John (Summer) Hitchcock; and great niece Phoenix Ray. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions have been requested for the Monterey United Methodist Church, 124 North Holly Street, Monterey, Tennessee 38574, or Putnam County Family YMCA, 235 Raider Drive, Cookeville, Tennessee 38501. The family received friends at the Whittaker Cemetery for graveside services. Arrangements And Care Provided By D.M. Goff Funeral Home, Inc., 205 East Cleveland Avenue, Monterey, Tennessee 38574, Phone 931.839.2311.

Cemetery Details

Whittaker Cemetery

306 N. Elmore Street
Monterey
Monterey, TN 38574

Previous Events

Graveside Funeral Services

NOV **27**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Whittaker Cemetery
306 N. Elmore Street
Monterey
Monterey, TN 38574

Tribute Wall



“ *William Turner "WT" Ray, Jr.*

October 08, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *I am a current Yale student and am honoured to sit in one of the carrels in Bass Library that he made possible through his generosity! Rest in peace, and I hope his family feels proud of his generous spirit*

DB - December 03, 2021 at 12:52 AM



“ *W T was truly one of a kind. Since my retirement I have thought of him frequently. He was always gracious and kind hearted on all my visits. Many prayers for Elizabeth and family.*

Larry B Garrett - November 30, 2020 at 08:07 PM



“ *Diane Cates Vaughn lit a candle in memory of William Turner "WT" Ray, Jr.*



Diane Cates Vaughn - November 27, 2020 at 12:07 PM

LC

“ We give thanks on this Thanksgiving weekend for the many Thanksgivings with Franny and WT, all as memorable as he was. And Thankful for his strong example commitment to his church and love of family and friends. I loved it when he and Franny would suddenly break out in song together, normally a hymn. A life well lived. The end of an era. Love and prayers for the family.

lynn Connor - November 27, 2020 at 08:08 AM

AK

Bill was a west high friend of my late husband's, Jack Knox. We enjoyed their company when we lived in Nashville. Betty was a dear friend and was so happy when Smitty was born. Jack passed away in 2005. He always remembered his high school friends. Like Bill, Walter Biffle, jimmy Breen, Johnny Pearl, Bob Dudley and Fred Graham. Jack was a true friend to his buddies. Biffle was in the navy when Jack was playing football for the citadel. He'd bring his buddies to the game. He married a Charleston girl as did Jack. Jack bought his old 1936 Plymouth, the black streak which he drove during his college years. My condolences to earline and their children Anne Knox

Anne Welling Knox - October 28, 2021 at 11:06 PM

TW

“ Teresa Wireman lit a candle in memory of William Turner "WT" Ray, Jr.



Teresa Wireman - November 26, 2020 at 07:03 PM

SC

“ Susan B Clark lit a candle in memory of William Turner "WT" Ray, Jr.



Susan B Clark - November 26, 2020 at 06:35 PM



“ Regina Buckner lit a candle in memory of William Turner "WT" Ray, Jr.



Regina Buckner - November 25, 2020 at 11:00 PM



“ I hate to hear about Bill. Old paratroopers never die, they just fade away

Joey King - November 25, 2020 at 03:38 PM

EB

“ always paid me well when I worked for he and franny. i was well received.

Eugene Buckner - November 25, 2020 at 03:37 PM

SF

Loved Bill and Franny couldn't Ask for nicer friends. Visited them this past summer he wasn't feeling to great at the time and ask that we say a prayer with him. Myself my sister Dean Neal and her daughter Bev held hands with him and prayed for him. He was a very good man and will certainly be missed my many. RIP WT!!

Sue Bowman Frazier - November 25, 2020 at 04:37 PM

BG

WT will never be forgotten, he was larger than life. As I Have read this many happy memories come floating back. Rest in peace.

Barbara Garland - November 28, 2020 at 02:50 AM

SS

Remembering the good times with WT and my precious friend, Franny.

Sandra Shumaker - December 02, 2020 at 08:02 AM

BR

WT had one of the most colorful personalities I have ever known. My experiences with WT will forever be etched in my memories.

Bronson - February 18, 2021 at 10:29 AM