



Clyde Ray

January 5, 1938 - August 9, 2022

Longtime Smith County resident Clyde Ray passed away on August 9, 2022 at the age of 84, in Smyrna, Tennessee. Clyde Allen Ray was born January 5, 1938 in Lancaster, Tennessee to Wirt and Bonnie Betty Ray. He was the youngest of his six siblings. He graduated from Gordonsville High School in Gordonsville, Tennessee in May 1956. He went on to enlist in the US Army and was first stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia, Company D. He was honorably discharged and later met his future wife Ivora Jean Murray. They were married on July 28, 1961 in Oklahoma City and would eventually move to the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming to ranch and raise a family.

Fitting for the person he was and the places he would go, Clyde's high school class voted him their 'Best All-Around' friend. Their class motto was "No Reward Without Labor". He was born into a hardworking agricultural family who made their living off the land. He raised his children to understand the 'living rewards' that come from raising crops to feed and putting your full heart and toil into readying livestock for eventual sale. He made sure his children understood the true meaning of hard work and the benefits thereof. Most folks who met Clyde soon came to understand him to be a genuine, honest and kind person.

While in the Army, Clyde excelled in the welding trade and later put those skills to use as a welder on the "Iron Horses" of Wyoming's Gas Hills oil fields.

He went on to work for Fremont County, Wyoming School District #1 where he retired after more than 20 years of service to the county's youth.

He moved back home to his beloved 'Rocky Top' in the mid-1990s where he lived until his death.

He was preceded in death by father Wirt Ray and mother Bonnie Betty Ray; brothers Louie (Evelyn), Paul (Mary), Joey (Frances), Pat (Jo Doris) and sisters Carlee (Joe) Bostic, Frankie (Douglas) Fletcher.

He is survived by daughters Regina (Joel) Meena of Cheyenne and Claudia (Gerald) Russell of Lander; son Edward (Leslie) Ray of Charlotte, NC; grandsons Tony and Eli Meena, Tucker and Aidan Russell and Dalton Ray; granddaughter Faith Ray and his youngest descendant, great grandson Johnny who shares his Great Grandfather's fiery red hair and zest for life.

In accordance with his wishes he has been cremated. Memorial services will be held at Bass Funeral Home, in Gordonsville, TN on August 17, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. Visitation with the family will be at the Gordonsville Chapel of Bass Funeral Homes on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 from 1:30PM until 3:30PM.

In lieu of gifts and donations the family asks individuals to share their best memories of Clyde on his tribute page which can be found at bassfh.com/obituaries/

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 17. 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM (CT)

Gordonsville Chapel of Bass Funeral Home
71 E Main Street
P. O. Box 248
Gordonsville, TN 38563
(615) 683-8212
kurtbass@bassfh.com
<https://www.bassfh.com/>

Service

AUG 17. 3:30 PM (CT)

Gordonsville Chapel of Bass Funeral Home
71 E Main Street
P. O. Box 248
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Tribute Wall

RC

“ We had the pleasure of meeting Clyde twice in his later years as he visited Edward and Leslie at their Wake Forest home and also at our Lake Royale home. We found him to be a thoughtful and caring person.

Even though our contact with Clyde was limited, we can sincerely say that Clyde and Ivora raised a wonderful son who we are proud to call our son-in-law!

We send our sincere sympathy to the Ray family, and we ask God's blessing on them as they celebrate Clyde's life.

Ray and Bonnie Creek - August 16, 2022 at 02:23 PM

BM

“ It's with a heavy heart that I share a memory of Uncle Clyde-o, he was such a good part of my life for many years. I can easily think of so many memories and could write a long story, but one special one comes to mind. One time Regina and I went with him to work one evening, we were probably five years old, and by the end of the time we were there we more than tripled his work. One thing that comes to mind is spilling a large tub of soapy water down the hallway of the high school. He just shook his head and we had to stand still until he cleaned it up. He never got angry, and I always remember him being so kind. That's the person I always knew. He was a good man and will certainly be missed. *Bill Murray, nephew.*

Bill Murray - August 15, 2022 at 05:21 PM



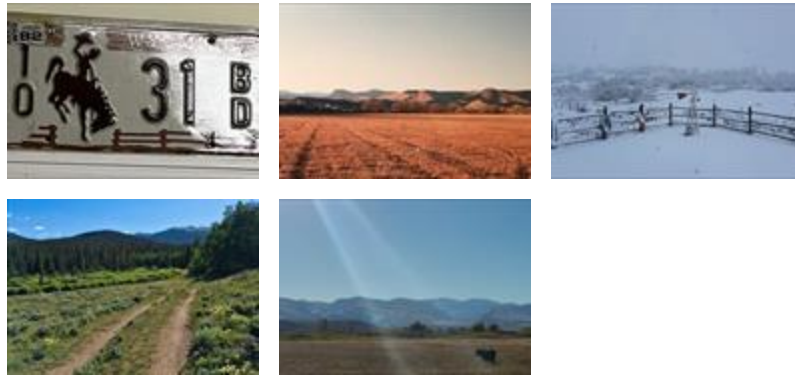
“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Clyde Ray.*



August 15, 2022 at 05:07 PM



“ *22 files added to the album Clyde Ray Memories*



Edward Ray - August 11, 2022 at 07:56 PM



“ *Right after we got Caller ID at the Senior Center, we found that Clyde was the "mystery caller", using his cell phone and calling us, then hanging up. He only did it when he was right there to watch us run for the phone. I think we found it as funny as he did! Such a dear, sweet man. We loved him, and will miss him.*

Sandy C. Brown, Director - August 11, 2022 at 04:55 PM