



James Ray Taylor

February 3, 1928 - August 21, 2024

CMsgt (Ret) USAF James Ray Taylor, age 96, passed away on August 21, 2024, in Tallahassee, Florida, surrounded by his loving family. Born on February 3, 1928, in Wausau, Florida, he was the son of Willie Taylor and Leaty Hicks Taylor. He was one of eight children and is predeceased by his parents and three brothers and three sisters. He is survived by his brother Charles Taylor and sister-in-law Yvonne Taylor of Crawfordville, Florida, his best friends who provided constant love and support.

Ray distinguished himself through a notable career in the United States Air Force, retiring as a Chief Master Sergeant. His military service included critical roles in the Korean and Vietnam wars and notably as Chief in the Maintenance Analyst Division, Deputy Commander for Maintenance, 9th Headquarters Squadron, 9th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing at Beale Air Force Base, California from 1965 -1970. During his retirement ceremony on November 30, 1970, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his contributions to the development of improved standards of effectiveness for the SR-71 Blackbird program at Beale AFB.

Following his military career, Ray continued his service in the Civil Service, applying his extensive skills to benefit numerous projects at Tyndall AFB, Florida. Beyond his professional life, Ray was a dedicated member of the Lynn Haven Methodist Church, and he was deeply involved in the community

in Panama City, Florida. He was also a Master Mason at Lodge 149 in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Ray was a man of many talents, including hunting, fishing, and crafting handmade guitars and homemade fishing lures, both freshwater and saltwater. With all of his technical skills, he even built personal computers. All of these hobbies brought him great joy and allowed him to connect with friends and family. His ability to fix and build was legendary among those who knew him, making him the go-to person for anyone in need. And his gumbo recipe was unmatched.

Ray leaves behind a legacy of courage, integrity and perpetual generosity and love. He is survived by his loving wife of 72 years, Elizabeth Louise Finch Taylor, and his two daughters, Carolyn Taylor Henry (Richard) and Linda Taylor Marks (Dwayne). His surviving grandchildren are Kathy Shores (Rod), Tyler Jarvis, Sam Jarvis, Troy Marks, Kyle Marks (Jessalyn), Rachel Bermudez (Manuel), and Monica Johnson (Jared). Ray was blessed to know and love 12 great-grandchildren, Lindsey Overbey, Cleary Armstrong, Jackson Marks, Preston Marks, Bradon Marks, Colton Marks, Austin Marks, Adalynn Marks, Nolan Bermudez, Harper Bermudez, Elizabeth Johnson, and his youngest who is his namesake, Anna James Ray Johnson.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at Family Funeral Home of Crawfordville, in the Harvey Young Chapel, 3106 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, Florida. Visitation with family will begin at 9:30 AM and the service will begin at 10:00 AM. The committal service will take place at 2:30 PM (CST) at the Ferguson Cemetery in Wausau, Florida. Ray's life and service will be honored in a ceremony with military honors provided by Tyndall Air Force Base to reflect his significant contributions to his country and his community. Ray leaves a lasting impact on all who knew him, and he will be deeply missed and forever cherished in the hearts of his beloved family

and friends.

Skip and Trey Young, along with Paula and Kimberly are assisting the family with arrangements. 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 27. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Family Funeral Home-Harvey Young Chapel
3106 Crawfordville Hwy.
Crawfordville, FL 32327
paula@familyfhc.com

Funeral Service

AUG 27. 10:00 AM (ET)

Young Family Funeral Home
3106 Crawfordville Hwy.
Crawfordville, FL 32327
(850) 926-5919
<https://www.familyfhc.com/>

Committal Service

AUG 27. 2:30 PM.

Ferguson Cemetery
Wausau, FL

Tribute Wall



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Ray Taylor.



August 27, 2024 at 05:19 AM



“ Linda and Family, I am so sorry for the loss of your Dad. You are in my thoughts and prayers. 🙏🙏🙏💙💙💙

Donna Chatham - August 26, 2024 at 09:44 PM



“ Brenda, Bryan, Wendy purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of James Ray Taylor.



Brenda, Bryan, Wendy - August 26, 2024 at 02:29 PM



“ Brenda, Bryan, Wendy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Ray Taylor.

Brenda, Bryan, Wendy - August 26, 2024 at 02:29 PM

BS

“ Ray had a great sense of humor and the best twinkle in his eye. He was fun to be around, and I will miss him.
Brenda Stoltzfus

Brenda Stoltzfus - August 26, 2024 at 02:21 PM

JC

“ Jim,Ernie,Greg,Lisa,Steve & Peggy Clay purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of James Ray Taylor.



Jim,Ernie,Greg,Lisa,Steve & Peggy Clay - August 26, 2024 at 12:13 PM

JC

“ Jim,Ernie,Greg,Lisa,Steve & Peggy Clay planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Ray Taylor.

Jim,Ernie,Greg,Lisa,Steve & Peggy Clay - August 26, 2024 at 12:13 PM

AW

“ Please know that I am so saddened to hear of Mr. Ray's passing, and I am praying for the Taylor family during this difficult time. What great memories I have of all of you during the time that both of our families were stationed at Beale Air Force Base, and then when we were all in Panama City in later years. Such precious friends! I will never forget Mr. Ray and Ms. Louise being at the hospital to comfort us when my mom passed away. That meant so much to me and daddy. And speaking of, I'm sure my dad, James, has been one of the people who has welcomed Mr. Ray to Heaven! What an amazing legacy Mr. Ray has left behind, and I'm sure you are all so proud! May God bring comfort and strength in the days ahead, and many sweet memories to sustain you. With Sincere Sympathy and Love,
Aletha



Aletha D. Walter - August 26, 2024 at 09:26 AM

SR

“ I am shellie Finch which is aunt Lou brother's youngest daughter and I send my condolences to all the family 🙏 but one thing I will never forget is the pond behind there house uncle Ray would let us kids fish and it still brings joy to me we will miss you uncle Ray

Shellie D Finch - Rhoden - August 24, 2024 at 04:37 PM

NR

“ Nell Rozar lit a candle in memory of James Ray Taylor



Nell Rozar - August 24, 2024 at 12:09 PM

KS

“ *Katherine Shores purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James Ray Taylor.*



Katherine Shores - August 23, 2024 at 08:32 PM