



Mr. Gary Nick Ray

October 27, 1948 - January 11, 2023

Gary Nick Ray was born October 27th, 1948 in Lansing, Michigan. He grew up in Ft. Pierce, Florida. He graduated from Satellite High School, after which he joined the U.S. Navy.

He served for 20 years as a flight crewman and during his military career, he risked his life while on a mission in Vietnam as a member of the first team to complete helicopter mine sweeps. He also graduated from the elite Naval Search and Rescue School and spent part of his career as an aviation rescue swimmer.

Gary retired from the Navy September 16, 1988 and had a successful follow-up career as a government contract manager.

He was a beloved husband of 53 years and raised his two daughters to love the Lord.

He served in the church throughout his life in various roles. He loved helping people, and he especially loved his family.

He is survived by his loving wife Lee, his daughters, Lori and Nikki, his grandchildren, Alex, Jeremy, and Mikayla, his brother Robert, and several nieces and nephews.

Cemetery Details

Cape Canaveral National Cemetery

5525 US-1
Mims, FL 32754
(321) 383-2638

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 19. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Port St. John
3900 Fay Blvd
Port St. John, FL 32927

Funeral Service

JAN 19. 12:30 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Port St. John
3900 Fay Blvd
Port St. John, FL 32927

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Gary Nick Ray*

January 30, 2023 at 03:36 AM



“ *My love and prayers are with you all. Your family has been dear to us especially when Jim and I were senior pastors at Lighthouse on Whidbey Island. Asking the Lord to comfort you during this hard season. ❤️🙏*

Roberta Cargill - January 19, 2023 at 02:32 PM



“ *Gary was such a sweet and kind man! My favorite memories with him, Lee, and Nikki are when we did a weekly small group at their house. We had many fun nights worshipping the Lord, laughing, and eating good snacks! He will be greatly missed but we have hope knowing we will see Him again! Praying for the comfort and peace of Jesus to surround your family during this time! Love you all!*

Jamie Wells - January 19, 2023 at 09:08 AM



“ *I have known Gary for a long time because his family and my family went to the same church. He loved the Lord with all his heart and it was evident that he had a close relationship with Jesus. Gary was such a kind, generous and gentle man. He always made me feel welcomed when I would come over to hang with Nikki. And he always included me in their dinners. He will be greatly missed by all who loved him! He is now walking streets of gold!*

lisa - January 19, 2023 at 09:01 AM

LB

“ I remember Gary at church as a nice kind man that loved the Lord, his wife and his family. He would always sit by his wife and they would hold hands. I always thought that was sweet. His love for God his wife and family was very evident. I give my condolences to the family. I know how much he was loved and will be missed. Much love and prayers, The Bosnak family.

Linda Bosnak - January 19, 2023 at 09:00 AM

NI

“ My dad was great! I remember how he served so much in the church growing up. I mostly remember him ushering, but there were other things he did too sometimes. When I was around 5 or 6 years old, he was involved in a group at our church called whirlybirds. It was for kids my age. We did all kinds of fun things that he was involved in at whirlybirds, but the coolest was when he got all of us a ride in a small airplane. I remember that airplane ride with my dad and how small everything looked from the sky as a 5 or 6 year old kid. He pointed out things to me on the ground and I thought it was so cool seeing it from so high up.

Nikki - January 18, 2023 at 07:26 PM

ES

“ I never had the privilege of meeting Mr. Ray, but had the opportunity to get to know his daughter Lori while stationed in Japan with my husband. Lori's love of the Lord is evidence of her father's commitment to Christ and it showed every single day. Our heartfelt condolences for your loss and our joined praises for the return of a good and faithful servant back home to the Lord. Eric and Susan Schmidt

Eric and Susan Schmidt - January 18, 2023 at 01:49 PM

MI

“ When I think of my grandpa, one of the first memories that comes to my mind was when we were staying at a hotel on the beach, and learning that he was a surfer. Not only did I think that in and of itself was really cool, but he also taught me how to surf during that trip. It truly made my day.

Mikayla - January 16, 2023 at 03:19 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Gary Nick Ray.



January 16, 2023 at 10:34 AM

LD

“ My daddy was such a good man! He was handsome, smart, and he loved God, and his family.

I have way too many fond memories of my dad to share here, but as a little girl, I thought he was amazingly strong. When he was in the Navy Search and rescue school, he would swim laps with me on his back. I practically thought he was Superman.

When I was in high school we would talk a lot. He was a really good listener.

He had so many Gary-isms that we could always count on him to say. “Can’t never could”, “almost only counts in horseshoes, hand grenades, and atom bombs”, “six of one, half a dozen of another”, “slower than molasses on a cold day” and several more.

I am thankful that my daddy loved God and raised me to as well, and I am thankful to have the peace of knowing that he is in Heaven and I will get to see him again.

I was blessed to be his daughter, and I’m thankful he was my dad.



Lori Downer - January 15, 2023 at 09:17 PM

JD

“ Grandma and grandpa have this plaque placed up in their living room. It says "Jesus" on it but it's done in a somewhat abstract way using little cutouts of wood to make an outline of it. One day I was holding it and he pointed out to me what it said and my young mind was blown away.

Jeremy D. - January 15, 2023 at 10:12 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Gary Nick Ray.*



January 15, 2023 at 10:01 AM



“ *One of my favorite core memories was when we were sitting around the table as a family doing tongue twisters. The phrase "toy boat" came up and you were supposed to say it 3 times really fast. Grandpa said "Oh that's an easy one!" So we obviously challenged him to try it. On the very first try, he said "toy boyt!" It was hilarious and made everyone burst with laughter.*

Alex - January 15, 2023 at 08:57 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Gary Nick Ray.*



January 14, 2023 at 02:49 PM