



Raymond "Ray" J. Back

JAN 29, 1940 - AUG 25, 2024



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Raymond "Ray" J. Back

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Raymond "Ray" Back, 84, of Frazeyburg, Ohio, passed away peacefully on Sunday, August 25, 2024, at Genesis Hospital.

Born on January 20, 1940, to Betty Goddard and Coleman Victor Back in Mansfield, Ohio. Ray was a one-of-a-kind man—a loving husband, a strong dad, a superhero grandpa, a caring great-grandpa, and a friend to all who knew him.

Ray was a devoted husband to Cheryl Back, his beloved wife of 62 years. Their love began with letters he wrote from basic training and grew into a lifelong bond that was the heart of our family.

Ray loved spending time with his family, especially playing Yahtzee around the kitchen table. He was also a dedicated fan at sporting events, always supporting the Tri-Valley Scotties and Johnstown Johnnies. Whether it was a Friday night football game, a Saturday at the softball field or a gymnastics meet, Ray could be found with a Pepsi and popcorn in hand, cheering on his grandkids. He also loved supporting Johnstown's Big Red Band and enjoyed dancing to the beat of the percussion section. Ray was always the first to celebrate after a big win, and his home quickly became a favorite place for everyone to visit as he was known as "Grandpa Ray" to many.

He also cherished his mornings spent at Bobby's Diner and McDonald's with friends, and he looked forward to his winters in Florida, enjoying the sunshine and company of friends.

A veteran of both the Marine Corps and Army, Ray took great pride in his service and was always ready to help anyone in need. After his military service, he continued to serve as a first responder, holding positions as a Dresden Police Officer, an auxiliary Licking County Sheriff and a volunteer Frazeyburg Firefighter. One of his proudest moments was being named Grand Marshal of the Frazeyburg Homecoming, a testament to his dedication and love for his community.

Ray was a longtime member of the Community Bible Church and found great joy in



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singing hymns for all to enjoy. We find comfort knowing he is now singing with the angels and rejoicing with Jesus.

Ray lived his life with a heart full of love and a spirit that uplifted everyone around him. His signature saying, "Here We Go, Rippin' & Tearin'," was his way of embracing life with joy and enthusiasm. As we say our final earthly goodbyes, we hold onto the warmth and joy he brought into our lives and we look forward to our heavenly reunion.

Ray is survived by his loving wife, Cheryl Back; three daughters, Jodi Back, Kathy (Jody) Williams, and Susan (Brian) Sterling; five grandchildren, Sydney (Kaden) Wortman, Jared Williams, Rylie Sterling (Cooper Cass), Cade Sterling, and Bailey Williams; two great-grandchildren, Vila and Colson Wortman; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Betty Goddard and Coleman Victor Back; and in-laws, Viola and Gilbert "Bert" Hardesty.

Calling hours will be held on Thursday, August 29, 2024 from 2:00-4:00pm and 6:00-8:00pm at Frazeyburg Chapel of Vensil & Chute Funeral Home, 110 W. 3rd Street.

A memorial service lead by Ray's nephew, Rusty Hardesty and brother-in-law, Bud Hardesty, will take place on Friday, August 30, 2024 at Frazeyburg Chapel of Vensil & Chute Funeral Home beginning at 11:00 am.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Frazeyburg Fire Department or the Community Bible Church.



Tribute Wall

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JH

Jenn (Cohagen) Hawkins posted:

Susan and family, you all have my most sincere sympathy. Your dad was everywhere you were, always cheering for you. My heart goes out to you..

September 3 at 8:00 PM

JN

Jeff Norris posted:

Cheryl my deepest sympathy to you and all your family.

August 30 at 8:00 PM

TL

Terry And Jay Lees posted:

Our thoughts and prayers. So glad we had a visit in March. Remembering all of our visits growing up with this sweet man. Blessings to you all. Terry and Jay

August 28 at 8:00 PM

BS

Bob Stutes posted:

Ray, we sure had alot of fun at the Ambulance Service Ray. You will be missed....R.I.P. Ray

August 28 at 8:00 PM

AB

Amy Barnes posted:

Sending prayers for the Back family. So very sorry for your loss.

August 27 at 8:00 PM

CS

Cheryl Susil lit a candle in honor of Raymond "Ray".

Rest in peace Ray. I'll miss you in church. Prayers for your family 🙏🙏

August 27 at 8:00 PM





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JD

Janice Dupler posted:

This breaks my heart. I met Ray at Dresden McDonalds several years ago when our grandson went to Dresden Elementary. We loved talking to him, he was such a nice man. He loved his Florida trips. Sending prayers to his family, he will definitely be missed. Janice, Randy & Walker Dupler

August 27 at 8:00 PM

CG

Carol Back-Gough posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

August 27 at 8:00 PM

BM

Becky & Jerry Miller posted:

Our deepest sympathy to the entire Back family. Enjoyed our time together...RIP

August 27 at 8:00 PM

JD

Janice Dupler posted:

This breaks my heart. I met Ray at Dresden McDonalds several years ago when our grandson went to Dresden Elementary. We loved talking to him, he was such a nice man. He loved his Florida trips. Sending prayers to his family, he will definitely be missed. Janice, Randy & Walker Dupler

August 27 at 8:00 PM

CF

Clifford Bigler (Former Police Chief - Frazeyburg) posted:

Ray was truly an original. The times we spent at the diner in Frazeyburg, talking, joking and just hanging out will always be memories I treasure. My heart goes out to the entire family and to the Dresden and Frazeyburg Communities. Ray will always be a staple in every community he was a part of and the world just got a little less enjoyable due to his passing. Rest easy Ray, we have the watch from here. We will meet again and have a coffee in Heaven someday while we patrol GOD's streets.

August 27 at 8:00 PM



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CB

Chaplain Bill Blair posted:

I am saddened at the loss of your dear loved one! I will be keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers as you go through this difficult time!

August 26 at 8:00 PM

RP

Rick And Becky Priest posted:

Our sincere sympathy to your family

August 26 at 8:00 PM

SM

Stephanie Wasson Mcgrath posted:

My deepest sympathies to Cheryl and the girls and your family. Ray was such a part of the Frazeysburg community. I don't have any memories of Ray where he wasn't smiling. May the Lord bring his comfort and his peace to you all during this time.

August 26 at 8:00 PM

EW

Eric & Dawn Wasson posted:

My deepest sympathies to the entire Back family. Ray was such a great guy and be greatly missed. Many memories of Ray from as far back as I can remember. Ray and I also had several great conversations about life. I know we will see him again one day. Much love and peace.

August 26 at 8:00 PM

EK

Ed Kent posted:

Ray was a very special person indeed! always willing to help when needed. I worked with Ray several years at Pepsi And enjoyed our friendship. and work together as we went about our job. Ray was a very kind-hearted soul and yet had a strong determination when needed! later years I would catch him at McDonald's once in awhile with the rest of the gang! prayers to Cheryl and his daughter. s. they were always talked about in conversations. God bless this family and may Ray rest in peace!

August 26 at 8:00 PM



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Karen Hardesty posted:

Ray was one of the sweetest person I have ever known. John and Karen Hardesty

August 26 at 8:00 PM



Randy And Joyce Lincicome posted:

To the Back Family, sorry to read of your loss. Your family are in our prayers. The community lost a good man, who served his country in the Marines. Ray was a class guy, and he engaged people with respect, a hand shake, and a great smile. RIP Ray, and thanks for your service to community and country.

August 26 at 8:00 PM



Rose Salcedo lit a candle in honor of Raymond "Ray".

I will forever cherish the memories made with "Uncle" Ray. He was truly the best. I will miss him dearly and send my love to everyone.

August 26 at 8:00 PM



Eric Miller lit a candle in honor of Raymond "Ray".

Ray was/is a great man an inspiration to all he came in contact with.

August 26 at 8:00 PM



Barbara (Hardesty) Kollar lit a candle in honor of Raymond "Ray".

I was so very sorry to hear about Uncle Ray's passing. I will be unable to be there for the services or funeral, I had a serious foot surgery that has me off my feet for 8 weeks, I'm at week one. I send my love and my prayers to you all. Rest in peace Uncle Ray. We now have another angel in heaven!!

August 26 at 8:00 PM



Bob And Rossann Davis posted:

Our sympathy to all the family members. He was one of a kind.

August 26 at 8:00 PM



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KC

Karen Crozier posted:

Sorry for your families loss he was a good man.

August 26 at 8:00 PM

TH

Tim Howard posted:

To the back family. So sorry to hear the passing of your ray. I have a lot of great memories of growing up in the burg with ray and your family. May god be with you in this time greif. We will keep you all in our prayers and thoughts

August 26 at 8:00 PM

DW

David Waggoner posted:

Cheryl and family. So very sorry to hear about Ray's passing. I have so many fond memories of him in school and from seeing him over the years whenever I visited the "burg". Unfortunately, I will be in Phoenix, AZ for the next three weeks so will not be able to attend the services for him. Just know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. David Waggoner

August 26 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Raymond "Ray" by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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