



Raymond Lewis Teems

April 12, 1946 - November 20, 2020

Raymond Lewis Teems of Grayson, GA, passed away peacefully on November 20, 2020, after a battle with cancer. He is survived by his precious wife of more than fifty-one years, Rebecca Wages Teems, and their three sons: Jeffrey Allen Teems of Lawrenceville, GA, and his wife, Brandy; David Scott Teems of Pasadena, CA, and his wife, TJ; and Michael Andrew Teems of Tucker, GA; his brother, John David Teems of Franklin, TN, and his wife Benita; and his faithful dog, Brutus.

Ray was the proud grandfather of five incredible grandkids: Carson Allen Teems and Isabelle Makayla Teems of Georgia; McCabe Raymond Teems, Worthy Rebecca Teems, and Livsey Anne Teems of California.

Ray was born and raised in Atlanta, GA, the son of John David and Juanita Teems. He attended John B. Gordon Elementary School and East Atlanta High School, where he graduated in 1964. He lettered in four sports, and was a member of the Cocates Trio, a folk group.

Ray then attended West Georgia College, where he was a founding member of the Cavaliers, a local fraternity which later affiliated with Pi Kappa Alpha. His sons, Jeff and Scott, both followed in his footsteps and became brothers of PiKA. In 2013, Ray founded the Cavalier Alumni Club, in which he was still an active member upon his death. He graduated from West Georgia, in 1968, with a degree in History.

Ray was a member of the Army Reserves, then spent most of his business career in the banking and savings & loan industries, from which he retired in 2009. He also worked in the homebuilding industry, in the 1990s.

Ray was a wonderful musician, and played in bluegrass bands, throughout the 1970s and 80s. When he wasn't playing music, he was listening to it! He also enjoyed playing golf, fishing, painting, watching football, boating on the lake, woodworking, collecting antique cameras, writing, telling tall tales, laughing, and spending time with his friends.

But Ray's true passion was his family. He loved them so much! In 1969, he married Becky, the love of his life, then the boys followed soon thereafter. As they grew, Ray coached them in nearly every sport they played, and was their biggest fan. When they reached high school, Friday nights were spent at the football stadium, and the Parkview community was strong. The memories from those years will last a lifetime.

Ray was a beloved uncle, cousin, and in-law, both in his own family and the one he married into. Family reunions were never without laughter when Ray was there!

In recent years, nothing made Ray happier than spending his retirement with his five grandkids, visiting them in Georgia and California. Whether fishing at the lake or splashing in the hot tub, time spent with Papa was full of joy and jokes -- and often a whoopee cushion! Ray was really a kid at heart, and that made him the best kind of Papa you could ask for.

And in the last couple of years, Ray was immensely blessed by the devotion of his canine buddy, Brutus. Whether reclining in the chair or driving through the neighborhood -- with Brutus on Ray's knee, head sticking out the window to catch the breeze -- their bond was true, and Brutus brought a new depth of love to the Teems home.

Ray Teems was a good and honest and loving man. He taught us all so much, and gifted his family with musicianship, creativity, and a strong work ethic. When he walked into a room, it got lighter. People smiled more. He laughed at his own jokes, and that made you laugh, too. There was never a dull moment when he was around. What a gift it is to know someone like that! He will be missed forever.

We'll celebrate the life of Raymond L. Teems on Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 4:00 PM at Vecoma at the Yellow River: 4400 Vecoma Lane
Snellville, GA 30039

This will be an outdoor, socially-distanced service, with a reception to follow. Light snacks and beverages will be served.

Please note: The service will take place under a covered pavilion, rain or shine. In addition, the service will be professionally filmed and made available for anyone unable to attend.

We appreciate your continued support in these difficult times.

Thank you,
The Teems family

Please consider donating, in Ray's name, to the Livsey Memorial Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund (3172 Randolph Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30345) or the Emory Winship Cancer Institute (winshipcancer.emory.edu).

Condolences may be sent or viewed at www.wagesfuneralhome.com. Tom M. Wages Funeral Service, a family company, 3705 Highway 78 West, Snellville, GA 30039 (770-979-3200) has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Cleve Rowley - November 26, 2020 at 08:40 PM



“ This is an update on the youth baseball picture of Ray. Front Row: 2nd from left is Ray Teems; 4th from left is Joel Stevens. Behind Front Row: 2nd from left is my dad and Coach Cleve Rowley. 4th from left is Bobby Stevens, brother of Joel Stevens. This picture was taken September 1956, so this would have been the 11 and 12 year olds instead of the 8,9 & 10 year olds I stated before.

I knew Ray because our high schools, Murphy and East Atlanta, were crosstown rivals. Ray and I both attended West Georgia College and also graduated in the same class. I knew the Stevens brothers because like Ray they made a lasting impression and they were all-american kids growing up in southeast Atlanta. When this photo was taken I was on one the 8,9 &10 year old teams and I remember most of the other names in this photo, I just can't place them with a face.

Cleve Rowley - November 29, 2020 at 01:09 PM



“ Certainly sad news to hear that Big Play is no longer here. Knowing that just makes the world a little more empty. But Heaven will be a happier place! Condolences to Miss Becky and the family.

Worked with Ray in Charlotte back in 2011-13.

Harrell E. Pratt
Emporia, Virginia

Harrell E. Pratt - November 24, 2020 at 05:38 PM



“ 10 files added to the album Memories Album



Scott Teems - November 23, 2020 at 04:36 PM



“ From rival high schools to West Georgia, to Trust Company of Georgia, to apartments on Lawrenceville Highway, to Lilburn, to Mountain Park Athletics, to Brookwood vs Parkview, to retirement, Ray was my friend! He was truly a Renaissance man; exceptional athlete, accomplished musician, and all around great guy.

Prayers for Becky, the boys and their families for comfort at this difficult time. Knowing Ray, he has probably already found a 12 string and is making music. Rest In Peace my friend.

David Sims

David Sims - November 22, 2020 at 04:12 PM



“ As a neighbor, we often had friendly conversations about his love for God, family, friends and work.

Ray attended a prayer breakfast at McDonald's with me and I immediately knew he was a Christian friend who cares about others.

Later, Ray told me of his cancer and I always included him in our Prayer List. He was always grateful because he knew the the "Power of Prayer" and felt God's love in his life. RIP my friend

Ed Birdsong - November 22, 2020 at 11:44 AM



“ I knew Ray professionally from his days in the banking business. I considered him a friend and always knew him to be an honest man with true integrity. I did not know he was ill and I am saddened by this news. God's peace and comfort to the family.

Mike Wtcher

Mike Witcher - November 22, 2020 at 09:32 PM



“ Truly a fine southern gentleman. Earned the highest esteem from all his East Atlanta High family. He will truly be missed.

Lynn Daniel Giglio - November 23, 2020 at 08:11 PM



“ For his family and friends, the world will never be the same without Ray.

I became a part of that other world when Ray was organizing the Cavaliers, the first fraternity at West Georgia. He was the driving force, the idea man, then the action man.

After graduation and marriage to Becky, Ray continued to stay involved with the Cavaliers, and with his friends, EVERYBODY LIKED RAY. What a tribute!

Farewell my friend and Brother. We are all proud of you.

Julian Heeth

Julian Heeth - November 24, 2020 at 09:21 AM



“ I really enjoyed my friendship with Ray at West Georgia. Whether it was his musician skills or his clever witt,,he always kept us entertained!

My deepest condolences to his family.

Stuart Alston

WGC 68'

Stuart Alston - November 25, 2020 at 01:02 PM



“ This saddens my heart not only for his friends but especially for his loving family. Ray, my friend, you are already being missed. may your journey be a sweet one.

Carolyn Harris - November 27, 2020 at 07:20 PM



“ Ray was one of my first new friends in college and a teammate on the basketball team. We learned we competed in high school, practiced and partied together, played golf and were generally typical college freshmen. I transferred during my sophomore year but we stayed in touch for a period. As things often do, we were fraternity brothers though at different schools and when we played golf with WG athletes years later I felt as though nothing had

changed - this was one of Ray's gifts. My family will pray for his family and we will meet again.

John Darnall

John Darnall - December 02, 2020 at 06:23 PM



“ Like David Sims, I knew Ray at Trust Company of Georgia, but it was years later when I joined him as a member of a bluegrass band, "The Grass Reunion." Ray was the lead singer and played the mandolin. Along with Buzz Alford, Wally Alford, Jim Bootle, and Bo Mason, we played a lot of music, had a lot of laughs, and made some wonderful memories. I am saddened by this loss and wish Becky and the boys the best.

Tom Glenn - December 04, 2020 at 10:17 AM



“ My sincere condolences to Becky and family. I worked with Ray in Charlotte NC 2011-2013. We commuted to the office together every day for over a year. We shared some great stories and mutual acquaintances from atlanta in the banking and the music industry. He was a proud family man, a great guy, and will be missed.

Bill Plumer

Atlanta, GA

william G plumer - February 05 at 01:01 PM