

Obituary

"Be of good courage; put on the armour of Christ." - Psalm 27:13

Howard Ray was born in East Point, Georgia on December 22, 1918. He was the youngest of five children born to Howard Ray and Dora Giles Ray. Howard's father died when he was only six years old. He relied heavily on the influence of his older sister Florence who married a Baptist preacher. He went into the United States Army at an early age and dutifully sent most of his money home to his paralyzed mother.

He met his late wife Frances Townsend and married her in 1942. She was the love of his life! Together they embarked upon the military life. The military became Howard's career. Together they raised five children: Shelia, Howard Jr., Cynthia, Roderick Clayton and Michael.

Howard's military career and employment as an aircraft mechanic at Tinker Field Air Force spanned over forty years. The family travelled throughout the United States, England, Germany and Japan. Howard was a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Msgt. Howard Ray loved watching football, baseball, basketball and the news on television. Local and National News was often discussed at the dinner table. Dinner was not served until all of his children were at the dinner table.

Howard and Frances insisted that all of their children get preferably a college education. There was no alternative discussion about that issue. He also insisted that his children be able to take care of themselves. Corpus Christi Catholic Church was the family's home away from their residence. Howard was a member of Corpus Christi Catholic Church for fifty-three years.

"Grandpa" believed in hard work. He encouraged not only his grandchildren but anyone to do their best, go to church and to vote. Despite all of his medical afflictions in life, he continued to smile, and to help anyone that he could.

Howard leaves to mourn five children: Sheila, Howard Jr., Cynthia, Roderick Clayton (Kyoung A.) and Michael (Danielle); grandchildren: Jason Hutchinson, Asha Hutchinson, Angelique Cole, Jessica Ray, Joshua Ray, Tiffany Harris, Samone Willis, Frances Ray, Janelle Harper, and Michael Ray, Jr. Also, he leaves to mourn nieces: Sylvia Daniels (Atlanta), Elnora Davis (Atlanta); nephews: Rudolph Moore (Atlanta), and Ron Ray (Houston). Mr. Ray leaves to cherish his memory a host of other relatives and friends.