



Noel Ray

JUN 1, 1938 - MAY 20, 2020



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Noel Ray Obituary

On June 1, 1938, William “Noel” Ray, Jr. was the first of four children born to William Noel Ray, Sr. and Melba Louise (Cloud) Ray. Growing up in his birth community of Texarkana, Arkansas, Noel spent plenty of time outdoors and was fond of spending time at Momma Grace’s – his maternal grandmother’s home. While in school, Noel would be introduced to a beautiful young woman named LaNelle Williams. Their mutual friends believed they would be a perfect match and that certainly was the case.

The two would marry on January 3, 1957 at Highland Park Baptist Church, Texarkana, TX. LaNelle remembers the ceremony being beautiful and it was certainly the start to an even more beautiful life!

Noel and LaNelle would make their home in Magnolia, Arkansas where they established an interior design and drapery business. It was there that they built an incredible business, made many friends, and raised their family. They would trade the Magnolia setting for Tulsa, Oklahoma when Noel felt led to enroll in Victory Bible Institute. While in Tulsa, Noel and LaNelle once again started doing what they loved and established a business that would flourish. This was a venture that lasted for more than 40 years before they decided to sell and retire.

A man of many talents, Noel was artistic, was a great cook, and could play the piano and sing beautifully. Over the years he was active in the various churches to which he belonged. Noel never met a stranger and everyone loved him. He was a happy man who maintained a positive outlook no matter what difficulties life dished out. Noel’s favorite title was Poppy. He will forever live in the hearts of his grandchildren as a grandfather who believed they could do no wrong. He adored our family gatherings where he cooked more food than we could ever eat. He had many love languages but cooking was a favorite! Noel’s smile could light up a room and will never be forgotten.



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Over the past few years, Noel had been a resident at Forest Hills where the Ray family grew as they welcomed other residents and the staff into their hearts and lives.

Noel passed from this life on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 in Broken Arrow. He was 81.

He is survived by: his loving wife of 63 years, LaNelle Ray; four children: Tene' Goyer, husband Tim, Cammie Hambrice, husband Ronny, Mark Ray, wife Kelly, Danielle Vincent, husband Joe; nine grandchildren: Hillary Bokker, husband Adam, Jeremy Hambrice, wife Mandy, Julianna Vincent, Savannah Vincent, Parker Vincent, wife Naudia, Anna Rohleder, husband Charlie, Will Whitehead, wife Jennie Marie, Elizabeth Ray, Jonathon Ray; seven great-grandchildren; two sisters: Nancy Kimrey, husband Greg, Sondra McCollum, husband Scotty.

He is also survived by numerous other relatives and friends. All our memories are sweeter for having Noel in our life!

To send flowers
to the family or plant a tree
in memory of Noel Ray, please visit our floral store.

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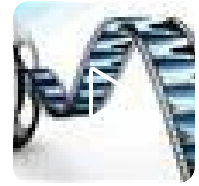
Tribute Wall

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Bixby Funeral Service shared a **Video**.



April 22 at 7:43 AM



John Paganis posted:

To the Ray family - please accept my sincerest condolences on the loss of your father. He was a class act. I was fortunate to have met you all almost 40 years ago, thanks to Tim (and our former employer). I have fond memories of those days.

May 25 at 10:23 AM



Kevin, Dana, Amanda, And Jenna Greer posted:

Danielle and family, we're so sorry for your loss. Your Dad was an amazing man and so kind. Please give our love to your Mom. It is so hard when our parent passes, know that your father is restored in Heaven and no longer suffering. Hold onto that thought and he will still be by your side.

May 24 at 6:48 PM



Candy posted:

Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. Candy and Rusty Adams

May 23 at 12:26 PM



Letha Bell posted:

The first time I met Noel, I could see how much he loved his children. His girls had him wrapped around their fingers and his eyes were a little brighter when they were in the room. He was the same way with his grandchildren; loved them so much. He also loved his wife, had the best smile when she was next to him. Not all men show the passion that he had for his family and life. May your memories with Noel help you get through your grief of your loss. Love to your family.

May 21 at 1:32 PM



Tribute Wall

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Lance Hendricks posted:

I'm so very sorry to hear of Noel's passing. Please know that my thoughts are with each of you...LaNelle, Mark, Tene and Danielle, during this difficult time of transition.

May 21 at 6:36 AM



Media

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Bixby Funeral Service shared a **Video**.

April 22 at 7:43 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Noel by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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