



Raymond Joseph Grote

December 4, 1945 - July 15, 2021

Raymond ("Ray") Joseph Grote, 75, of Newnan passed away on July 15, 2021. He was born on December 4, 1945, to the late Raymond Joseph Grote and Rosemary Heaney Grote.

Ray was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, where his large family gathered every Sunday for dinners and spent their summers at the family cottage on Breezy Point. His favorite summer job was valet parking at a local dinner club, where he got to admire beautiful 1950s automobiles. He attended college at what is now the University of Prince Edward Island, forming a life-long bond not only with friends, but also the island itself. After college, he was drafted and served in the Army during the Vietnam war. That love of family, his Country, vintage cars, water, and the outdoors would carry through his entire life.

He met his wife of 45 years, Debbie, while working together at Alexander's Department Store in New York City. Soon after their marriage, they moved to south Florida for Ray to pursue what would be his career with various national corporations in Loss Prevention. Ray and Debbie moved to Newnan, Georgia thanks to its proximity to the Atlanta airport, abundant, quiet land, and charming hospitality. In Newnan they would plant their roots and raise their family. Ray fell in love with country music and comically tried his hand at farming for a while. Ray loved Newnan, which he referred to as "the alternate

capital of the South". He had a passion for supporting local businesses, teams, and Newnan High School. He was also a long-time member of St. George's Catholic Church.

More than anything, Ray loved his family. He supported them, challenged them, and fought for them throughout his entire life. He fought hard for himself, as well, in his final years.

Ray is survived by his wife, Deborah Grote; children, Raymond J. Grote, III (Alia), Thomas Grote, and George Grote; grandchildren, Sophia and Lena; brother, Gerard Grote (Mary); close family members Susan LaCroce and Bob LaCroce; sister-in-law DiAnne Calabrisotto (Joseph); brother-in-law Frank Chillemi (Sara); and many nieces, nephews, and their children all of whom he adored.

The family will have a memorial service Saturday, July 24, 2021, at 6:00 PM in the chapel of McKoon Funeral Home with Deacon Steve Swope officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 4:00 PM until the time of service.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.mckoon.com, where Raymond's service will be live streamed.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ray's honor to Emory St. Joseph's Hospital by following with link below:

<https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1705/02-health-sciences/interior-hybrid.aspx?sid=1705&gid=2&pgid=2125&cid=3552&appealcode=USJH6&fbclid=IwAR0hCSXReFzCjeX7DouqR4hphfNNc2rt4LOqWKMSVoCLd0pF4upKMU6MssA>

Mckoon Funeral Home and Crematory 770-253-4580.

Cemetery Details

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory

38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 24. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Memorial Service

JUL 24. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of Raymond Joseph Grote*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - July 24, 2021 at 02:43 PM

VS

WISH SOUND AND RECEPTION HAD NOT BEEN SO SPOTTY; HOWEVER, FOUND THE SERVICE MOST TOUCHING AND WONDERFUL!! MISSING HIM SO TO NOT MEET ON PEI AGAIN; HOWEVER, AM SURE WILL MEET IN OUR AFTER LIFE WITH JESUS. BE BLESSED AND COMFORTED IN THIS DAY IN JESUS NAME. LOVE VICKI FROM CALGARY, ALBERTA CANADA XOXO

Vicki Smith - July 24, 2021 at 06:40 PM

RA

Thank you, Vicki

Raymond - July 24, 2021 at 11:50 PM

SF

“ Dear Grotesque Family,

My name is Steve Friedenthal. Ray gave me my first job in Loss Prevention with GNC in 1989. I remember him talking about his young twins at the time. I thoroughly enjoyed working for him. He was a great boss, mentor and friend. I ended up leaving GNC, but continued my loss prevention career to this day. Ray played a big part in giving me the foundation for my career. We lost contact several years ago. Today I was thinking about him and decided to look him up, which is how I found out about his passing.

Steve Friedenthal - February 18 at 06:47 PM

SF

I apologize for the typo on your last name. Apparently spell check didn't like your last name and decided to change it. I'm not sure how to edit it. Embarrassing!

Steve Friedenthal - February 18 at 06:49 PM

PM

“ Praying for your family. ❤️

Patty Murgo - August 01, 2021 at 09:06 AM

PM

“ I'm so very sorry. Thinking and praying for your family.

Patricia Murgo - July 26, 2021 at 10:30 PM

VB

“ Sincere condolences to all of Ray's family. Ray was a classmate of ours at St. Dunstan's University in Prince Edward Island. It was nice to see Ray and his brother at our reunion in 2018. Ray talked of visiting the Island again. RIP Ray. Vangie and Leo Broderick

Vangie and Leo Broderick - July 24, 2021 at 08:42 PM

SH

“ *My heart goes out to you all during this time. My deepest condolences and prayers.*

Susan Higgins - July 24, 2021 at 06:56 PM

SH

“ *Susan Higgins lit a candle in memory of Raymond Joseph Grote*



Susan Higgins - July 24, 2021 at 06:53 PM

VS

“ *Ray and I met at university - 58 years ago now! We had kept in touch off and on - and got to have a great great visit on Prince Edward Island in 2019. so great being with him again! Be assured that he is in his glory with our Jesus! be comforted and blessed knowing this. Love to you all from Calgary, Alberta, Canada God bless! Love Vicki and family (Smith)*

Vicki Smith - July 24, 2021 at 05:17 PM



“ *Dearest Raymond, Christian and I want to extend our deepest sympathies and condolences for the passing of your Father. We can't imagine what you are going through but are offering all our love and support during this difficult time – and beyond. Ray was loved by many, and so his memory lives on in you, your family, and all those whose lives he touched. 💙*

May Pryor - July 24, 2021 at 02:54 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Raymond Joseph Grote.* ”



July 23, 2021 at 02:34 PM



“ *Paul Meyers purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Raymond Joseph Grote.* ”



Paul Meyers - July 22, 2021 at 08:33 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Raymond Joseph Grote.* ”



July 21, 2021 at 12:00 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Raymond Joseph Grote.* ”



July 21, 2021 at 11:54 AM

SW

“ Dear Raymond: Jacob and I are so sorry to learn about your father’s passing. He was probably at many of our PONY League games when you and Jacob were playing and his daddy Eric and I were coaching. We both want to extend our deepest sympathy and prayers to your entire family. God bless all of you.

Susan Weegar - July 20, 2021 at 09:44 PM



“ May he rest in peace so sorry for your loss condolences to all love RICHARD & CHARLOTTE BOSCO

Charlotte Bosco - July 20, 2021 at 05:23 PM

RA

Thank you!

Raymond - July 20, 2021 at 09:51 PM

RB

“ Thomas, my deepest condolences to you and your entire family! All of your family has been in my prayers. I fondly recall meeting your father and sharing a dinner meal with him back in 2018 when he met you during our benefit related employee meeting road trip! He was a gentleman and so easy to connect with and of course the stories he shared about you were fabulous and fun to hear! And I was especially touched when he shared a few “twin” helpful child raising tips after learning I was a mother to twins myself. Mostly I recall watching him with so much pride in his eyes and heart for you as he watches you presented in the meeting and helped educate the employees during the meeting. He definitely loved his family to pieces!!! Big hug, Ruth Britto-Herold, colleague from Diamond Offshore.

Ruth Britto-Herold - July 19, 2021 at 08:43 PM

TJ

“ Thomas, my condolences to you and your family. Pray God blesses you and your family with comfort and peace during this time. - Tim Jackson and Family.

Tim Jackson - July 19, 2021 at 07:08 PM

MS

“ Dear family, I am so sorry for your loss and I will keep Ray in my prayers . You are a lovely family and he will be by your side always.
Megan

megan stearns - July 19, 2021 at 04:02 PM

GM

“ Sincerest sympathy to Ray's family. We were classmates and friends of Ray at St. Dunstan's University in Prince Edward Island back in the late 1960's. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.
George and Anne (Smith) Morrison, Class of 68.

George and Anne Morrison - July 19, 2021 at 01:00 PM

CE

“ Dear Raymond, Alia, Debbie and family
Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.
May God grant him eternal rest and peace.
With our deepest sympathies
“Hatooma”, Chris, Stephanie and Sara

Christina Elgendi - July 19, 2021 at 12:48 PM

BP

“ Sincere condolences to all family members. I met and befriended Ray ,September 1964 at St Dunstan’s University, Charlottetown PEI.

He played University Football and enjoyed his time on PEI

We met again at our 50 year union in 2018.

Rest In Peace my friend.

Billy Power - July 19, 2021 at 12:38 PM

MH

“ My sincere condolences to those who loved Ray. I met Ray again at our 50th Saint Dunstan's University Reunion. He had become the fine gentleman his younger person promised. He will be missed.

Mary Hickey - July 19, 2021 at 12:25 PM

PH

“ Ray came to pei in 1964. He and I were room mates during our junior year. We lucked out and got the biggest room on the floor of Marion Hall. One of my all time favourtie photos is of Ray stretched out on his bed with a beer in his hand. I back lit his bed with a lamp so it was almost just a silhouette. Ray was a business student and he enjoyed life on the campus. I believe there is a photo in our year book 1967/68 of him, Dave Burroughs and Claire Perry posing for a photo with a case of 24 Canadian beers. (We always bragged that Canadian Beer packed a bigger wall-up than our American neighbours.) I lost touch with Ray until our our fiftieth anniversary of Saint Dunstan's university. What a nice surprise that Ray came all the way from Georgia(?). Because his BMW needed repairs he stayed over for a few days so Ray ad I got to hang out together on our Island. We visited North Rustico and have a great feed of clams at a small restaurant in the village. We walked the favourite island boardwalk and also visited one o the beaches. I am glad he stayed and we got to reminisce and tell tall tales about university days. Since then we kept in touch via facebook. I was aware of his illnesses and always admired his upbeat and cheerfulness at this time.

God bless Ray ; may you rest in peace with the One who sent you here.

SDU Roomie, Paul

Paul Hickey - July 19, 2021 at 10:24 AM

DG

Ray enjoyed that trip seeing old friends. What a great memory you shared thank you

Deborah Grote - July 22, 2021 at 05:04 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Raymond Joseph Grote.*



July 19, 2021 at 10:17 AM



“ *Debbie and family,
My prayers and thoughts are with each of you at the loss of Raymond. May the Lord comfort and give you added strength during this time, as only HE can. Sincerely Joan*

Joan Smith Hanson - July 19, 2021 at 08:28 AM



“ *We shared a lifetime of memories starting with Ma and Pa, all the aunts and uncles and us kids at the “Hole In The Head” Bar. Those were the days!*

We grew up together and remained close through good and bad times. We always had what to talk about and could communicate with a look even in silence.

It will take a long time for me to hear the phone ring and not expect it to be Raymond.

Sharing in your loss and grateful for the memories.

Susan&Bob

Susan La Croce - July 18, 2021 at 06:33 PM

RP

“ *Ray And Gerrie Petty lit a candle in memory of Raymond Joseph Grote*



Ray and Gerrie Petty - July 18, 2021 at 02:15 PM

BW

“ *Bobby And Geraldine Welch lit a candle in memory of Raymond Joseph Grote*



Bobby and Geraldine Welch - July 18, 2021 at 01:47 PM

BC

To Debbie, Raymond, George and Thomas, I send my deepest sympathy in Ray's passing. I have not seen him in a long time and did not realize he was sick. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. May God comfort and strengthen you during this sad time.

Brenda B Clark - July 20, 2021 at 06:54 PM

JC

Just another friend from SDU who enjoyed this quiet guy from "the States. I really enjoyed meeting him again at our 50th and recognized that the promise of his youth came to realization as a fine gentleman. May God bless and keep him,

John (Soupy) Campbell

John Campbell - July 20, 2021 at 07:43 PM



So sad and sorry to hear of Ray's passing. I worked for Ray at Alexander's in the 70's, and we remained friends through the years. In later years, Ray would come down to Celebration, Florida to see the Atlanta Braves play, with one of his sons and we'd get together for dinner afterwards. Ray was a devoted family man and father. He loved his children very much and was very proud of them. I will miss our chat sessions very much. Prayers for all of the family...

Paul Meyers - July 22, 2021 at 08:27 AM