



Samuel Teague Ray

May 17, 1937 - June 5, 2015

Samuel Teague Ray began his journey of his life on May 17, 1937. He was born in Carrboro, North Carolina and was the son of the late William Benson Ray and Christine Teague Ray. Sam graduated from Western Carolina University with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and later obtained a Master's degree from Tulane in Public Health. He went on to work for the United States Public Health Service. During the next 32 years he worked with the immunization and care of Cuban and Haitian boat immigrants, eradication of infectious diseases in New York and New Jersey and assisted in developing policies and procedures for Medicare and Medicaid. These programs built and established clinics in the rural South and recruited doctors to provide health care to communities which lacked health care services. Upon his retirement from The Public Health Service, Sam, along with his wife JoAnn, began a business constructing residential properties. Sam and JoAnn were deeply interested in the preservation of historical properties and worked with JoAnn through the Newnan Coweta Historical Society towards that end. His interest in preserving one of Newnan's most important historic properties, The Newnan Hospital on Jackson Street led him to write a proposal to the Mayor, Coweta County Commissioners and, at that time hospital administrator Glenn Flake in 2004, concerning the possibility of the hospital becoming a college campus, should the University of West Georgia decide to relocate their campus. This vision has just become a reality as the University has opened for classes for the current term. Sam served his country in The United States

Army from 1958 – 1960. He was stationed in Germany and worked on a secured missile base. While living in Newnan, Sam was a very active member of Rotary. He was awarded the Ronnie Waller Fellow, The Will Wyatt Fellow and Georgia Student Program Hue Holmes, Jr. Fellow and A. Kendall Weisiger Fellow during his years in the club. A favorite saying of Sam's was "you own nothing in this world except your reputation and it is up to you, personally, to care for it". Mission accomplished! Sam is survived by his wife, JoAnn Boozer Ray. His children are Samuel T. Ray, Jr. and wife Kendra of Cumming, GA, Susan Ray Stuckey and husband John of Ft. Myers, Jennifer Ray Good and husband Raymond of Burnsville, MN, and William Berry Ray and wife Kerri of Cumming GA. His step-children are Drake Henderson and wife Cecily of Suwanee; Laina Payne and husband Joshua of San Francisco, CA. A brother, Michael Ray also survives him. There are 17 grandchildren. Sam's life was one of service to others and even in death he was able to further research into the disease of Alzheimers through Emory University's Alzheimer's Research Center. Funeral arrangements are by McKoon Funeral Home at 38 Jackson Street in Newnan. Sam's exemplary life will be honored in a memorial service on June 13, 2015 at 11:00 AM at Central Baptist Church 14 West Broad Street in Newnan. Dr. Joel E. Richardson officiating. A reception will follow in the church fellowship hall following the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Central Baptist Church, Carrboro United Methodist Church, Emory Alzheimer's Disease Research Center or The Newnan Rotary Club. Online condolences may be expressed at www.mckoon.com. McKoon Funeral Home 770-253-4580.

Cemetery Details

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory

38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Previous Events

Service

JUN 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

Central Baptist Church
14 West Broad St.
Newnan, GA 30264

Visitation

JUN 13 (ET)

Central Baptist Church
14 West Broad St.
Newnan, GA 30264

Tribute Wall

JH

“ *The Zeta Omicron Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon, Western Carolina University, mourns the loss of our Brother Sam Ray and extends condolences to his wife, six children and seventeen grandchildren. We join the family in celebration of Sam's life and his numerous public health and community action accomplishments.*

John Hybarger - June 13, 2015 at 03:37 PM

GS

“ *So sorry to hear about Sammy. He was always fun to be with in high school and after. Have missed seeing him the last several years. Much love to you JoAnn and your family. Gene Smith and Margaret.*

Gene Smith - June 11, 2015 at 01:25 PM

FA

“ *Dear Joann, I am so sad about Sam and my condolences to you and your families..*

Freddi Aliffi - June 11, 2015 at 09:08 AM

BW

“ *Our thoughts are with you at this very difficult time.*

Bobby and Geraldine Welch - June 10, 2015 at 01:00 PM

SR

“ *Joann, just want you to know you are in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time of Sam's passing*

Sue and Larry Rich - June 10, 2015 at 11:08 AM