



Mr. Luther Milton Ray Sr.

August 16, 1930 - January 16, 2022

What we once enjoyed and deeply loved, we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes part of us. -Helen Keller

On January 16, 2022, Luther Milton Ray transitioned from this life to his heavenly home. He was born on August 16, 1930 in Webster County, Mississippi, to Luther Barrett Ray and Nannie Peeples. He had four brothers who predeceased him, Octay, Willie, Vernon and John, and one sister, Abby, who resides in Eupora.

He married Frances Dixon on June 4, 1949 and shortly thereafter they moved to Clay County, where they reared their three sons, Billy, Junior, and David. He worked at Babcock & Wilcox until his retirement. After his retirement, he still continued to work with Long Branch Fabricators. He was a steadfast and dedicated member of West End Baptist Church, serving in numerous capacities, including Sunday School teacher and deacon.

He leaves behind his beloved wife, Frances, his son, Junior (Gail) and his son, David (Vicki) and a daughter-in-law, Betty Ray Carpenter (Paul). His son, Billy, predeceased him. He also leaves behind his adoring "grands", Kimberly Ray Allen (William); Kelly Ray Ramsay (Will); Stephanie Ray Craven (Chris); Erica Ray Davidson (Marcus); Kathryn Newman-Hoffpauir (Clay); Brandon Walker (Amanda) and Caitlyn Walker. In addition to his children and

grandchildren, he was blessed with his “great grands”, Barrett Allen, Marci Allen, Sara Frances Ramsay, Lucy Ramsay, Jaden Craven, John Ross Craven, Raylee Craven, Welton Davidson, Brooklynn Davidson, Trae Davidson, Kamryn Zarate, Emma Grace Walker, Thomas Walker, Cyrus Walker and John Douglas Walker.

Visitation will be on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 from 10:00 am-11:00 am at Calvert Funeral Home with funeral services following at 11:00 am from Calvert Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Chris Craven officiating. Calvert Funeral Home of West Point is honored to be entrusted with the arrangements.

It would be nearly impossible to sum up the life of this man lovingly called Granddaddy by everyone, so this will be dedicated to honoring the life of such an extraordinary man and the lives he touched with his wisdom, caring and affection by those who knew him best. His family.

Milton and Frances had three boys who demonstrated superior athletic ability. “Those Ray Boys” was a common phrase heard during Little League baseball all the way through high school, and even after, when Those Ray Boys played softball. For competitors, this was not a good thing. Those Ray Boys took competition to a whole different level. You can bet, though, front and center, always, sat Mom and Dad. Every game. No matter what. No matter where. To say they were proud is an understatement. They did not merely enjoy supporting them, they reveled in it and most likely played each moment with them. They saved every scrap of paper, every picture, every moment. Storing those treasures in their hearts. That love of sports and competitive nature extended to their grandchildren and great grandchildren. Watching the grands and great-grands was one of Granddaddy’s favorite things to do. He loved their excitement, he loved their grit and he loved that he was able to be there to see them.

Life Lessons. Everyone has them. But the key is who your teacher is. Granddaddy was the quintessential leader of life lessons. Junior said his biggest lesson was that Granddaddy told him to never do anything that can destroy your life. Wise words from a man who did not consider himself wise. He just lived his life with the pearls of wisdom he found everyday while reading his Bible. You never went into his house without seeing that tattered, but beloved, Bible on the table. But perhaps the greatest life lessons are the ones from the grands. Their memories, their perspective, his impact, his knowledge. Memories, so many memories. With Grandmother at the piano, he stood with his grands surrounding him singing old gospel songs with them. Going to church with him and sitting in the Ray designated pew surrounded by children and grandchildren, teaching them silently and steadfastly, by his actions as well as his words. Church was not an option; it was a necessity. Shelling peas and butter beans from his garden under the porch on a hot summer day or sitting in the swing outdoors watching them play. The food. Lord, the food. So much and so good. A bountiful harvest always shared happily and often. It should also be noted that “some” grandchildren always made sure they were the first in line and every time, but he loved every minute of it. He was famous for “Granddaddy’s Biscuits” and his breakfasts, but everyone can agree that his biscuits were truly the best (with apologies to Grandmother). All of that being said, Granddaddy could also be the first one to reprimand when necessary. Justice was swift and immediate. There are those who remember the infamous “BB gun bus shooting” episode when he wasn’t very happy, but even after the punishment, the love was sure to follow.

And he was a good steward. He knew hard times, he knew want. But first and foremost, God was first. In everything he did. He tithed faithfully. He taught by example. Whatever obstacle you face, you give it to the Lord. Whatever answer you need, you ask the Lord. Whatever need you have, the Lord will provide. He believed that everything would fall into place as long as you let

the Lord have your life and lead you. He never asked for more, he never expected more. He was content with his life and how the Lord had blessed him.

Marriage. His one true love. His beloved Frances. The one who was the center of his world from the time they met until he closed his eyes to leave this earth. She was, as he once told me, the best part of him. He was devoted to her and she was devoted to him. Together, they made traditions that will hopefully continue on with his family. Every year before school, they took the grands to buy school supplies. You knew EVERY year you would get a birthday card with money, you would get a birthday dinner at Pasquale's and, later, at Harvey's. Special occasions were just that. If Grandmother wanted to get something for her babies, Granddaddy would make sure it happened. They were a tag team; you never got one, you got both. They balanced each other so well. He was devastated when he could no longer care for her and he never recovered from not having her by his side. He was the glue. He was the listening ear when you needed it. He was forgiveness even if you didn't ask for it. He was love when you felt unlovable. He IS loved beyond measure and will always be present with his family. He was, without a doubt, the blueprint for an example of how to live a Godly and fulfilling life. I am sure when he reached the gates of his Heavenly Home and saw his Savior's face, he knew his journey was complete when Jesus said, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." Well done, indeed.

Pallbearers will be William Allen, Marcus Davidson, Will Ramsay, Jaden Craven, John Ross Craven, Welton Davidson, and Barrett Allen.

Honorary Pallbearers will be his nephews, James Ewing, Co-Workers at Babcock and Wilcox and Members of West End Baptist Church.

Memorials may be made to: The Mission, 2494 East Churchill Road, West

Point, MS 39773 or to The America Cancer Society, P.O. Box 8217, Jackson,
MS 39215.

Cemetery Details

Greenwood Cemetery

West Point, MS 39773

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Calvert Funeral Home
P.O. Box 77
27600 East Main Street
West Point, MS 39773
(662) 494-2833
info@calvertfuneralhome.com
<https://www.calvertfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

JAN 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

Calvert Funeral Home
P.O. Box 77
27600 East Main Street
West Point, MS 39773
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info@calvertfuneralhome.com
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Tribute Wall

PD

“ I had the great pleasure of working with Mr. Ray in the West Point Consolidated School District over twenty years. He was dedicated and always expected the best. He was a dear friend and will truly be missed.

With deepest sympathy,
Paul Dobbs & Family

Paul Dobbs - January 22, 2022 at 02:44 PM

BC

“ Junior and David, I am so sorry about Milton. The previous people who mentioned him and Frances at the ball games is spot on. The obituary was very touching and well written. Best wishes to your family. Billy Caskey

billy caskey - January 18, 2022 at 05:27 AM

DL

Dear Junior and David, Mrs. Frances and family's. On behalf of the Travis Maddox Family, sincerest sympathy to all of you since the passing of dear Mr. Milton, our family friend, times not forgotten, love to Frances, such a precious Mother, Absolutely Wonderful memories of a wonderful man. God Bless you and Keep you. Most Sincerely, Donna Lowther(and Mike) Dwayne and Dwight Maddox. Most Sincerely.

Donna Maddox Lowther - January 21, 2022 at 11:15 AM

BJ

“ My sympathy for the entire Ray family on the passing of this good man. Growing up in West Point, he was always a familiar face at the ball fields supporting not only his boys but all the other athletes as well. He will be missed.

Bob Jolly - January 17, 2022 at 10:05 PM

WM

“ *Mr Ray always welcomed us when we were on vacation in West Point! Harrod Jr was best friends with Junior growing up! Love & prayers to all this precious family 🙏❤️ Harrod & Wendy Mcgibbony*



wendy mcgibbony - January 17, 2022 at 08:12 PM



“ *Peg Sanyi lit a candle in memory of Mr. Luther Milton Ray Sr.*



Peg Sanyi - January 17, 2022 at 07:01 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear the news regarding Uncle Milton"s passing. He was one of a kind...always happy ...go lucky. Very dedicated to Our Lord and to his family and his church. He always kept in contact with me and my family in Virginia with the going on in West Point. Such a joker with so many stories to tell.*

My family and I will miss him.

Peggy Ann Sanyi and Family

Peg Sanyi - January 17, 2022 at 07:01 PM

WF

“ With love Dot Lee and family! purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Luther Milton Ray Sr..



With love Dot Lee and family! - January 17, 2022 at 06:21 PM

ML

“ I will miss seeing Granddaddy coming to visit his sweetheart. He was truly one of a kind in the best ways ever!! His love for Jesus shined through him brightly!! God bless you all. Love, Martha

Martha Lewis - January 17, 2022 at 04:50 PM

ST

“ With sympathy and friendship,

Susanne Allen Thomas

Susanne Thomas - January 17, 2022 at 04:18 PM

LP

I have great memories with Mr. Milton and Frances and their son Billy. I miss them all. Praying for your family 🙏🥹🙏

Lonnie Peeples - January 17, 2022 at 05:28 PM



So sorry for your loss. I have many memories from my early years of having the privilege of having Milton and Frances as teachers at West End Church, as well as being welcomed into their homemas they served . In later years when he visited in Eupora he would come by my work place for a visit. Always had much affection for them both. Prayers for the family during this time.

Peggy Clanton - January 19, 2022 at 03:04 PM



“ 42 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Calvert Funeral Home - January 17, 2022 at 04:09 PM