



Gary Kenneth Ray

FEB 3, 1966 - JUN 16, 2013



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Gary Kenneth Ray, SFC (R), age 47 of Franklin, TN went to be with the Lord on June 16, 2013.

He was born in Decatur, IL to Ken Ray and Carole Ray. Gary graduated from St. Teresa High School in Decatur, IL. Even as little boy Gary wanted to serve his country he never wanted to play cowboys and Indians all he wanted to play was Army. He enlisted in the United States Army just after graduation. He served in numerous campaigns for 21 years including Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was most proud of his accomplishments while serving as Crew Chief on a Blackhawk and then as Station Commander in the US Army Recruiting Command. During his military service he received the following awards: The Bronze Star Medal, The Meritorious Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal with Two Campaign Stars, Two Campaign Stars, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal Second Award, Army Achievement Medal Sixth Award, Arm Superior Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Fifth Award, National Defense Service Medal Second Award, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, US Army Recruiter Badge with 3 Sapphire Stars, Senior Aircraft Crewman Badge, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Expeditionary Medal. After honorably retiring in March, 2010, he used his military expertise to motivate young people to become better citizens in the Army JROTC program at Fred J. Page High School, Franklin, TN. Within his duties as a JROTC Instructor, he coached the Award Winning 'Patriot Battalion' Air Rifle Team. He loved hunting, fishing, and spending time being in the outdoors. He was a legend in his own time. He was a man of honor and duty who loved his wife, family and country.

Gary Ray, SFC (R) is survived by: wife, Kimberly Newsom Ray; daughters Rachael Danielle Ray and Sarah Elizabeth Ray; mother- Carole Nuxoll Ray and fiancÃ© Delbert Morgan of Effingham Ill; father -Kenneth Ray of Decatur Ill and his wife



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Linda; sisters- Laura Ray Kelly and her husband, John, of Peoria Ill; Dawn White and her husband, Kyle, of Tulsa, OK; Carrie Mathias and her husband, Jim, of Illinois City, Ill; Neely Bullington and her husband, Kevin; mother-in-law, Lane Russell Newsom, plus multitudes of loving nieces, nephews, former students and Military Service Members with whom he served.

He was reunited in Heaven with his grandparents Joseph and Sarah Ray and Cletus and Pauline Nuxoll, Uncle Jerry Ray, and special cousin Tommy Kullik.

Mass of Christian Burial to celebrate Gary's life will be on Wednesday, June 26 at 10 am at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 407 E. Eldorado Decatur with Rev. John Burnette, Celebrant. Visitation will be from 6-8 pm on Tuesday, June 25 at Moran and Goebel Funeral Home in Decatur. Burial with military honors conducted by the U.S. Army and Macon County Honor Guard will be at St. Isidore Cemetery in rural Dalton City, IL. In lieu of flowers please donate, in honor of Gary Kenneth Ray, SFC (R.), to the Wounded Warrior Project: www.woundedwarriorproject.org or via 1-855-448-3997.

The family of Gary Kenneth Ray, SFC (R) is being served by Moran & Goebel Funeral Home honored provider of Veterans Funeral Care, 2801 N. Monroe St. Decatur, IL. View the online obituary, send condolences, and share memories at www.moranandgoebel.com.



Tribute Wall

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CO

Courtney posted:

Being in his JROTC class my junior and senior year of high school year 2012, he always made me laugh, he was such a great man, he had so much knowledge to teach his students and he will never ever be forgotten.

August 21 at 12:04 PM

DF

David M. Freyling posted:

The rain came down steadily as the thunder rolled in the distance like the memory of an artillery barrage unleashed in a battle fought long ago. Three sharp volleys of rifle fire by the Guard of Honor, then the beautiful haunting 24 notes of "Taps", then, did I know this??Veterans' soul had found peace at last. Let us not mourn the departed, but rather thank God that such a man lived. Thank you for allowing us to perform these last Military Rites for your loved one. We consider it an honor to do so.

June 25 at 9:20 AM

DF

David M. Freyling posted:

Lit a candle in memory of Gary Kenneth Ray

June 25 at 9:19 AM

JW

Judy Wiggins posted:

Carol and Kenny, I was very sorry to read of your son's passing. My condolences Judy Wiggins

June 25 at 8:22 AM



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TH

Terry Howley posted:

I first met Gary his freshman year at St Teresa HS for freshman foot-ball practice . We met @ 5:30 on a hot August morning and Gary had his equipment on and ready to go !Unfortunatley, Gary had chosen a wool jersey to wear over his shoulder-pads on a day where the temps were over 90.....after about 1 hour of practice we noticed that Gary seemed lethargic and dizzy while barely sweatingafter removing his shirt and pads, we immediately took him to the locker-room and took his temp.....it was 104-105Gary was then immersed into our whirl-pool with about 20 bags of ice covering his body to lower his temperatureafter an hour or so, his body temp returned to normal and he was sent to the doctor for a possible heat stroke.....Gary returned after a couple of days and played 4 years of FB for me at St T...as a defensive nose-guard and tackleI also had the pleasure of having him in a state and local history class that I taught . Gary was one of the most inventive and funny guys I met in 14 years of teaching @ St T.....very intelligent about history , esp military historyour class did several videos that year that Gary starred in dealing with Illinois pre-historic history and telling us about his dream of someday owning and operating the Gary Ray School of Cosmetology in Decatur .(this one was a farce) I was saddened by the news of his early death . I know how much he loved the Army . I thank God for bringing our paths to cross for a short time at St Teresa .

June 24 at 10:42 AM

JD

John Duncan posted:

Our condolences to all of the Ray family. Gary led a life of commitment to his country, and his passing is truly a loss for all of us because he was a great American in every sense. Rest in peace, Sergeant Ray!John and Brenda Duncan

June 23 at 6:40 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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