



Ray E. McGrath

August 4, 1938 - August 19, 2017

Ray E. McGrath, age 79 of Atlanta, GA, formerly of Wheeling died Saturday, August 19, 2017 at Good Shepherd Nursing Home.

He was born August 4, 1938 in Wheeling, son of the late Ray and Mary Lou Bromer McGrath.

Ray graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Architecture Degree before moving to Atlanta, GA in 1979 where he was a Drafting Teacher at the Technical College in Atlanta, GA until his retirement in 1998, when he then volunteered at the GA Perimeter College Native Plant Garden. He was a Christian by Faith.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by two brothers: Lewis and Ed McGrath and one sister: Susan Weisenborn.

Survivors include one sister: Kathy (Robb) Bauer of Wheeling; special cousin: Margene Templin of Wheeling; two sisters-in-law: Delores McGrath of Wheeling and Mary McGrath-Stone of Bethlehem; one brother-in-law: Dale Weisenborn of Wheeling and many close nieces and nephews, as well as many close neighbors and friends in Atlanta.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday from 2-4 & 6-8pm at the Grisell Funeral Home & Crematory, 1 Ridgecrest Road, Bethlehem/Wheeling where funeral services will be held on Wednesday at 10:00am with Pastor Rodney Hubbs officiating.

Interment in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Mt. Olivet.

Memorial Contributions may be made to a charity of donor's choice.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Olivet Cemetery

Wheeling, WV

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 22. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Grisell Funeral Home & Crematory- Wheeling/Bethlehem
1 Ridgecrest Road
Bethlehem/Wheeling, WV 26003
(304) 232-0400
<https://www.grisellfuneralhomes.com/>

Visitation

AUG 22. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Grisell Funeral Home & Crematory- Wheeling/Bethlehem
1 Ridgecrest Road
Bethlehem/Wheeling, WV 26003
(304) 232-0400
<https://www.grisellfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

AUG **23**. 10:00 AM (ET)

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1 Ridgecrest Road
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Tribute Wall

DG

“ I arrived in Atlanta after college in the year 1978 and in 1979 I met Ray through my roommate and we lived in the Virginia Highlands. I knew Ray as a very dear person, focused, kind and dedicated to the world and those around him. Around 2012 or so I ran into him at Ansley Mall in Atlanta and had the good fortune to visit with him. It was very special time recalling memories of the past with Ray, a very special person who made the world a better place. Forgive me for not having paid this tribute sooner, but I just learned of his passing. He has a well lived life. My best wishes to Ray's family and friends in his passing.

Don Cameron Atlanta, GA - July 30, 2023 at 10:41 AM

MM

“ Sweet Uncle Ray it's been just under a year since you left us. Few words can describe how important you were in my life. Because of you, I felt Okay being the "unique" one in my family, for I was similar to you. The one that looked at the world around us in a special way. Much love and gratitude for all you were and the influence you still are in my life.

Marcie A McGrath - July 16, 2018 at 12:33 AM

KI

“ I moved from Atlanta 18 years ago—in fact Ray was present at my wedding. During many morning conversations with my mom, she would end the call by informing me that they were having breakfast at Chick-fil-A. My mom Rosa always enjoyed her breakfast mornings at Chick-Fil-A with Ray. They would discuss everything under the sun. He was just that knowledgeable about lots of subjects and he always gave a different perspective.

If you met Ray, his greeting would not begin and end at a simple hello. He always had more to say about LIFE. There are people that were placed on this earth for certain reasons and certain times. Ray was one of those special people with his very kind heart.

His presence will truly be missed.

Rosa Holmes, Michael & Kim Holmes-Wallace

Kim - August 24, 2017 at 09:32 PM

KC

“ Kay Coffman lit a candle in memory of Ray E. McGrath



kay coffman - August 23, 2017 at 12:50 PM

DM

“ I still read the obits from *The Intelligencer* in Wheeling WV on a weekly basis. from Southern California...Today I saw a familiar name of a very good person, Ray McGrath..It's been so long since I spoke with him but I remember my cousin well. I have read the stories of his kindness, and that does not surprise me from the man I remember. Ray, join your many family members awaiting you on your Heavenly journey home....My prayers with your family.....Danny, Regina and Kimberly McGrath

Dan McGrath - August 21, 2017 at 09:56 PM

TM

“ *Memories of my cousin Ray. Hello, I am Tom McGrath, son of Dale and Verna May McGrath.*

Ray was three years older than myself, about the same age as my brother Dale. For a few years while we were still young kids, my brother and I used to spend two weeks at Uncle Ray and Aunt Mary Lou's farm. All the boys enjoyed a lot of fun filled days, but there were always chores to do. Weeding the gardens, harvesting crops, gathering chicken eggs, tending to the ever-growing population of turkeys and chasing and being chased by the sheep as we ran around in the apple orchard, these were but a few of the chores. And early on Ray had a special knack for designing and building furniture. Over the years I especially admired him for his talent and hard work to build many items for his home on the hill.

Of course, my being three years younger meant that the older kids like my brother and Ray would just ignore the younger kids; that is just the way with kids. Then many years passed and I lost touch altogether with my cousins. So, it was with sincere pleasure that the day came, almost three years ago, that I received a phone call from Ray. Wow, was I delighted that he called. We talked and talked and talked. We called each other several times after that sharing our stories and remembrances.

I am so glad to have known Ray. I'll remember him. I'll miss him. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Peace be with you all.

*Tom and Linda McGrath
email: tomandlinda@mcgrathhome.com*

Thomas R. McGrath - August 21, 2017 at 04:20 PM

LA

“ Ray was a neighbor and a dear friend. His love of the natural world was evident in his yard which showcased a wide variety of plants. He was always talking about the ever-changing nature of a garden: how you would see something different depending on the time of day, the season, or just what you happened to notice. I first met Ray while walking past his house with my children. The kids had questions about Ray’s plants, and he was more than happy to share his wealth of knowledge. Over the years, Ray would bring plants that he thought I would enjoy for my yard. We would have long conversations about everything from plants to politics to healthcare standing in either my yard or his. I will miss him, but am comforted knowing that many of the plants he loved so much are continuing to thrive in my yard. They will always remind us of his generosity, his wisdom, and his kind heart.

Lori and Michael Ayling - August 21, 2017 at 08:41 AM

KB

Thank you so much for the beautiful message, card, pictures, and especially the beautiful drawing. I know they really cheered Ray up. It is comforting to know he had such great neighbors and friends in Atlanta.

Kathy Bauer - August 21, 2017 at 08:55 AM

TK

“ Uncle Ray was a very intelligent and interesting man. Many hours planting flowers, visiting family members and grave sites and taking the time to talk with strangers. I have never known any other than Uncle Ray to carry so much passion and grace. I will truly miss his company, stories and genuineness.

Tammy Kruse - August 20, 2017 at 08:06 PM

KB

He definitely enjoyed your company also. Especially when it concerned family history.

Kathy Bauer - August 21, 2017 at 08:57 AM

WK

We have known Ray since 1986 when we first bought a home in the Kirkwood Neighborhood; that is going on almost 31 years now. Ray was the kind of neighbor that offered a hand, advise or both to the many questions and projects that we would find when dealing with an older home. Ray had already traveled down that road with his house.

Ray's interests were many; history and architechure to name a few but his passion was nature and the garden that Ray created from a yard that was, when we first met him, covered in concrete. Ray, from the very start went about creating different natural environments, outdoor rooms, if you will, that would be decorated with many Georgia native plants. These micro environments would provide the observer with an incredible array of size, color and textures when they looked.

And best yet, if there were questions; Ray would be happy to give the answers and share his insights, and if the season was right he would offer you a plant that he had propagated to take home.

Kay and I are going to miss that kind and thoughtful man; our hearts go out to all those who knew and loved him as much as we did.

Wayne Carey and Kay Coffman

Wayne and Kay - August 21, 2017 at 10:05 PM

KC

Wayne and I believe that Ray is now at peace, feeling great and wandering through a field filled with flowers and plants of all kinds and sizes with his beloved dog Laddie by his side.

kay coffman - August 22, 2017 at 02:34 PM

AL

Mr. Ray McGrath was a great teacher and taught me drafting, designing floor plans at Atlanta Area Tech. he was a such lovely sweet person, Alway smile in a great spirit every day. He will be missed dearly!

An Jen Liu

An Jen Liu - May 03, 2024 at 12:51 AM