



Celebrating The Life of Mr. Howard Tee Ray
Sunrise November 28, 1931 - July 4, 2018
Monday, July 16, 2018
11:00 A.M.

Howard T. Ray was born in Okolona, Mississippi. His parents, James Ray and Mable White Ray preceded him in death. Also preceding his death are: Mattie Ray, the mother of his children; his beloved eldest son, Howard (Howie) T. Ray, Jr.; step-son, James (Tony) Jackson; brothers, James (Ned), Washington (Wash), Johnny, James (Ben), and Kenneth Ray.

At the tender age of two years old, Howard migrated to East St. Louis, Illinois where he spent his formative years until 1950 when he enlisted in the U.S. Army at the height of the Korean Conflict. Very soon after enlistment he was sent to the Republic of South Korea, where he became a Prisoner of War (POW), held by North Korean Guerilla Warriors.

He was awarded a Purple Heart for injuries he sustained during that capture. Following his release from captivity, Howard continued his dedication to military service by serving in Europe and Africa, and even returned to the land of his capture on two other occasions. Howard achieved the highest Non-Commissioned Officer rank of Sergeant Major. He served as and retired from the position of Chapel Activities Supervisor for Health Services Command, Ft. Sam Houston TX. While Howard valiantly served his country throughout his distinguished military career, the following awards/ribbons/medals/badges were bestowed on him:

- Combat Infantry Badge ●Legion of Merit ●Bronze Star
- Meritorious Service ●Army Commendation Medal - 2 Oak Leaf Clusters ●Purple Heart ●POW ●Good Conduct Medal, 9th Award
- National Defense Service ● Armed Forces Expeditionary ●United Nations Service ●Korean Service, ●Vietnam Service ●Republic of Vietnam Campaign ●Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation Badge ●Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, ●Meritorious Unit Emblem ●Vietnam Civil Affairs Ribbon ●Korean War Service
- Korean Defense Medal

Following retirement from the Army after 29 years and six months of active duty, Howard served as a civilian employee at Ft. Sam Houston, retiring in 1997 as a Contingency Planner, for a total of 45 years of faithful Army service. Throughout his work life, Howard always held second jobs, including being the NCO Club Manager at Ft. Devins in Ayer, MA and in Army/Air Force Station Kassel/Rothwesten, Germany. Here in San Antonio, where he was best known as D.J. "Killer Joe."

In 1996 Howard finally "met his match" when he married his last great love, wife of 22 years, Gloria Pryor Ray. Together they have a blended family of 7 children; sixteen grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren. During the course of their idyllic marriage, they were privileged to travel together, both domestically and internationally.

During his lifetime, Howard, the consummate "people person," served his communities through MANY military/veterans organizations, as well as NUMEROUS civic/social organizations, such as:

Military/Veterans Organizations

Past 20th District Commander, Member Fred Brock Chapter 828, American Legion; Past Grande Chef de Gare (State Commander) and Cheminot National, La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux (40 & 8); Department Commander and National Director, American Ex-Prisoners of War (AXPOW); Past Commander, Chapter 1836 and Past Chaplain, Department of Texas, Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH); Past Post Commander, Roy B. Hodges, Chapter 128, Past Department Finance Committee Person, Disabled American Veterans (DAV); Korean War Veterans; Viet Nam Veterans of America, Chapter 366; Charter Member, Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers' Association; Fort Sam Houston Retiree Council; Charter Member and Past President, Sergeants Major Association, Fort Sam Houston; Life Member, Non-Commission Officers Association (NCOA); Life Member, Edward Robinson Post 5142 (Now Post 2059), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW); Life Member, Manchu Association, 2nd Infantry Division.

Civic/Social Organizations

Prince Hall Masons; Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Noble Mystic Shrine, ASWAN 115; San Antonio Zulu Association; Premier Member, Fiesta San Antonio Commission; Participating Member Organization (PMO) Commissioner, San Antonio Zulu Association; Past President, Van Courtland Club; Secretary, Van Courtlandt Foundation; Past President, San Antonio Chapter Blacks in Government (BIG); Past Director of Security, Martin Luther King (MLK) March; Silver Life Member, San Antonio Chapter NAACP; Past Senior Advisor, U.S. Military Veterans Parade Association, San Antonio, TX, Artemisia Bowden Chapter of Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE)..

Howard is survived by his devoted wife, Gloria Pryor Ray and children whom he held dearly in his heart, Patricia Ray Summers (George); James Wesley Ray (Kym); Ira Wade (Melody); KDon Wade; and Eric Wilson (Kerry); sixteen grandchildren, sixteen great-grandchildren; sisters, Leanna Ray Miller; Ginger Ray Ezell (Willy); and Lena Ray Ezell (Johnny); along with brother, Wilbert Ray (Dorothy), and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Howard was a faithful long-time member of St. Philip's Episcopal Church where he formerly served in the choir; Senior Warden; Stewardship Chair and as a Lay Reader.



Many Thanks to

St. Philip's Episcopal Church
1333 Pecan Valley Street
San Antonio, Texas

Active Pallbearers
Bexar County Buffalo Soldier

Honorary Pallbearers
San Antonio Zulu Association (SAZA)
Van Courtlandt Club
Fred Brock Chapter 828, American Legion
Post 1836 MOPH
Roy B. Hodges Chapter 128, DAV

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge with sincere appreciation your loving kindness and condolences extended during these hours of bereavement. Our family will forever be grateful for your telephone calls, your visits, kind deeds and loving words of sympathy.
May God continue to bless each of you richly and abundantly.

Services Entrusted to

Lewis Funeral Home
811 S. W. W. Whit Rd
San Antonio, TX 78220

Interment

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery
Ft. Sam Houston, Texas
1:30 P.M.

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised.

The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend.

So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

*A Graveside Burial Service will follow the Worship Service
At Ft Sam Houston National Cemetery*

Reception/Repast following in the Parish Hall

Ministers of the Service

Acolytes: Taos Adkins and Ivy Adkins

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Vivian Jones and Polly Kirven

Ushers: Errol Smith, Eliza Nelson and Elizabeth Applin

The Altar Guild of St. Philips

Organist: Edwin Rieke

Celebrant: The Rev. Allan Conkling, Priest in Charge

Homilist: The Rev. Dr. Milbrew Davis

Assistant: The Rev. Paul Worley

Reception/Repast: The Families of St. Philip's Episcopal Church