



James A. Ray

December 11, 1929 - April 21, 2025

James A. "Jim" Ray, 95, of Evansville, IN, passed away on Monday, April 21, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Jim was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 53 years, Rita S. Bassemier Ray; his parents, Henry and Eliza Ray; and his brother, Edward Ray.

Born on December 11, 1929, in Detroit, Michigan, Jim moved with his family to Evansville at a young age. He graduated from Reitz High School in 1947. Following graduation, he proudly enlisted in the United States Army and served during the Korean War. On September 10, 1950, he married the love of his life, Rita. Shortly after their marriage, Jim embraced the Catholic faith. A devout man, he was a dedicated member of All Saints Parish. After his military service, Jim and Rita made Evansville their permanent home, where they raised a loving family. Jim worked for Indiana Bell/AT&T for 40 years before retiring. However, retirement didn't slow him down he later joined Ashton Computer, where he continued to work for another 29 years until his passing.

Jim's family was the center of his world. He was a devoted father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather. He never met a stranger and was a friend to all. In his free time, Jim enjoyed woodworking, cooking, playing cards, and dancing.

Jim is survived by his five children: Elizabeth Ray of Huntsville, AL; James E. Ray (Brenda) of Evansville; Regina Russelburg of Evansville; Madonna Woehler (Danny) of Evansville; and Rachelle Higdon (Don) of Evansville. He also leaves behind 11 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and 8 great-great-grandchildren, as well as his sister, Shirley Pelz of Indianapolis.

Jim's legacy of love, faith, and kindness lives on in all who knew him.

There will be a Mass of Christian Burial held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at St. Anthony Catholic Church, Rev. Theodore Tempel officiating. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, where the Vanderburgh County Retired Veterans Memorial Club will conduct military rites.

Friends may visit with the family from 3:00 until 7:00 PM on Wednesday at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W. Franklin Street and from 9:30 AM until service time on Thursday at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 704 N. First Ave.

Memorial contributions may be made to All Saints Parish, 704 N. First Ave, Evansville, IN 47710.

Condolences may be made online at www.pierrefuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

2500 Mesker Park Dr
Evansville, IN 47720-5964
(812) 423-1356

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **23**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street
Evansville, IN 47712
(812) 423-6471
info@pierrefuneralhome.com
<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com>

Visitation

APR **24**. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Anthony Catholic Church
704 First Avenue
Evansville, IN

Mass of Christian Burial

APR **24**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Anthony Catholic Church
704 First Avenue
Evansville, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Pierre Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James A. Ray*



Pierre Funeral Home - April 23, 2025 at 09:40 AM



Beautiful video and so many kids. It's amazing

Alan-Kim Billet - April 24, 2025 at 11:16 AM

CF

“ *Dear Regina and Family, my condolences on the passing of your Dad.*

Eternal rest grant unto James Ray, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. ~Amen~



CATHY FUNKHOUSER - April 23, 2025 at 06:10 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James A. Ray.*



April 23, 2025 at 03:36 PM



“ Tina purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James A. Ray.



Tina - April 23, 2025 at 03:16 PM



“ Tina planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James A. Ray.

Tina - April 23, 2025 at 03:16 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James A. Ray.



April 23, 2025 at 02:20 PM



“ 132 files added to the album LifeTributes



Pierre Funeral Home - April 23, 2025 at 09:37 AM

CR

“ Oh Mr. RAY! IM JUST SEEING THIS AS I JUST MESSAGED YOU YESTERDAY TO TELL YOU WHAT AN HONOR IT HAS BEEN TO HAVE YOU IN MY LIFE! FOR MY FAMILY WHO LOST THEIR VERY MUCH LOVED ONE, I LOVE YOU ALL AND IM SO SORRY! HE WAS A WONDERFUL MAN! I WANT YOU TO KNOW IM THINKING OF ALL OF YOU AND WILL SAY A PRAYER FOR COMFORT. LOVE YOU ALL, CHERRON

Cherron Roberts - April 23, 2025 at 04:15 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of James A. Ray.



April 23, 2025 at 12:00 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James A. Ray.

April 23, 2025 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ He was a patient at our office. He was always such a kind man. Prayers for all who loved him. May he rest in peace 🙏

Peggy Schmitt - April 22, 2025 at 09:40 PM

AB

“ Alan Billet purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of James A. Ray.



Alan Billet - April 22, 2025 at 09:06 PM

AB

“ Alan Billet planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James A. Ray.

Alan Billet - April 22, 2025 at 09:06 PM

MS

“ Matt and Gina Schreiber purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of James A. Ray.



Matt and Gina Schreiber - April 22, 2025 at 05:51 PM