



Ray Hudgins

December 25, 2025

Ray Hudgins, 86, of Suffolk, VA, passed away on Thursday, December 25, 2025. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Ray will be remembered for his unwavering love for his family and the many friends he made along life's journey—friends who became like family.

Ray met the love of his life, Mary Lou, in 1961, and they married just three months later. They celebrated 63 years together on Thanksgiving Day 2024. Mary Lou preceded Ray in death, entering the presence of their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on December 3, 2024.

Ray worked tirelessly to provide for Mary Lou and their two daughters. He had a deep love for travel, especially motorcycle trips and camping adventures with his family. Ray and Mary Lou were lifelong members of the FCRV and active HAM radio operators. They also volunteered with the American Red Cross disaster relief team.

In his later years, Ray worked as a lead tram driver at Busch Gardens and as a bus driver at Kingsmill. Through his work and travels, he formed lasting friendships around the world.

Ray is predeceased by his beloved wife, Mary Lou; his parents, Rupert and Elizabeth Hudgins; and several other family members. He is survived by his

daughters, Marylynn Harvey and her husband Dickie; Karen Raye Hall and her husband Claude; grandchildren Elysia Huber and her husband Ben, Bonnie Gibson and her husband Ryan, Phillip Hall and his wife Lily; and great-grandsons Liam Gibson and Matthew Huber. He is also survived by many extended family members and friends who loved him dearly.

The family would like to express its extreme gratitude to Ginny, Dee, and the rest of the staff at Trinity Hospice.

A funeral service with Military Honors will be held in Good News Baptist Church, 3252 Taylor Rd, Chesapeake, VA 2332, at 11 am Friday, January 2, 2026, with visitation one hour before the service. Dr. Mike Ascher and Pastor Joe Noreau will be officiating the service. The service will be live-streamed at goodnewsbaptist.org. The committal service will be held at Olive Branch Cemetery following the church service.

In place of flowers, the family requests donations to Trinity Hospice. Contributions may be mailed to Trinity Hospice, Attn: Jessica Pope, 860 Greenbrier Circle, Suite 103, Chesapeake, VA 23320.

Previous Events

A Visitation Celebrating His Life

JAN 2. 10:00 AM - 10:55 AM (ET)

Good News Baptist Church
3252 Taylor Road
Chesapeake, VA 23321

Celebration of Life Service

JAN 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Good News Baptist Church
3252 Taylor Road
Chesapeake, VA 23321

Tribute Wall



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. It was a blessing to know Ray, praying for you and your family during this time* ”

Marissa - April 24 at 12:46 PM

NS

“ I know you will probably not remember me as you, Marylynn and Karen Raye were little girls when we would visit. Your grandparents, Rupert and Elizabeth were good friends of my parents, Ondress and Wealthy Eason of Elizabeth City, NC. Mr. Rupert and my dad worked together. We would visit them when we could. The last time I saw your parents was at the burial of my mom in 2004. We kept in touch many years via emails but then suddenly lost track. Last year my husband saw the obit of your mom. Still have the note to call Ray but never got around to it. Googled your mom's obit and saw the recent death of your dad. I visited your grandparents when they lived in Craddock and spent a week with them. Mary & Ray were married but still very young. We all went to Ocean View and hung out in your grandparents back yard. We were friends from then on. Their love for each other and enjoying life by helping others is what will always be remembered by me. When my dad was injured in a car accident on the way to work in VA, your grandparents bought him a TV for his hospital room (3 month stay). They helped out financially. Ms. Elizabeth picked me up from the community college to take me to the hospital to see my dad. My mom was staying at the hospital during the week and I would relieve her on weekends so she could rest. She helped me write a letter to the local newspaper editor explaining the lack of notification of my dad's accident. He left home early Saturday morning to meet his ride 5 miles away. The accident occurred within 6 miles. Our notification was a call from a neighbor when they received delivery of the local paper. Anyway, my love for them lingers as well. The last time my husband & I visited on the river in Bennett's Creek, one of you were living at your parents home and they had moved into your grandparents residence. I believe your job was a traffic controller. Many years have passed. Please accept our condolences for the loss of both of you parents. Would love to touch base with you if you would like. home # 252-771-2786 Carl & Nora Mae Sanborn

Nora Mae Sanborn - January 19 at 11:52 AM

JN

“ Joseph N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ray Hudgins.

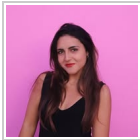
Joseph N. - January 05 at 10:17 AM

JN

“ Joseph N. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ray Hudgins.

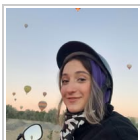


Joseph N. - January 05 at 10:17 AM



“ Dear Ray, I am deeply saddened to say goodbye. I feel so grateful to have met you. Even in such a short time, you taught us so much and supported us in many ways. Your kindness, warmth, and wonderful conversations will always stay with me. It brings me comfort to know that you are now reunited with your beloved Mary. You will always be remembered with love and gratitude. Rest in peace.

Ipek Erensoy - January 04 at 11:49 AM



“ We are very sorry for your loss. I will never forget how, on my birthday, he thoughtfully arranged a cake for me and surprised me in the evening with my young friends. It truly touched me and made me very happy. Even though I was thousands of kilometers away from my country, he never made me feel alone. Mary and Ray, you will never be forgotten.

Deniz Öztürk - January 04 at 11:45 AM

MS

“ I met Ray and Mary Lou through my husband Bonner Smith (Frederick Military Academy). Ray and Mary Lou were both such kind and welcoming people. They drove all the way to Bath NC to share in Bonner's celebration of Life in Nov 2021. And they kept in touch after that. It meant a lot to me - felt like they were looking after me after my husband past. Ray - you will be missed so very much, but you are finally with your love, Mary Lou. God bless.

Melissa Smith - January 02 at 12:03 PM

SE

“ From the first day, I met Ray and Mary Lou. It was at a camping event and they welcomed us with open arms. They watched out for me during a bad time. Ray taught me how to take care of my camper and how to drive and park. They were my family. Love you Ray.

Shelly Evans - January 02 at 08:43 AM

SL

*I have so many fond memories of Mr Ray and his family. We celebrated birthdays went camping and went to Bush Gardens in the antique convertible a-lot!
Karen Ray and I are both horse crazy girls and Mr Ray and Mrs Mary Lou would come by and pick my horse and me up in their horse trailer since I had no way to get to the shows.
He was so gracious and full of life and having fun . They both were and will be truly missed.
I didn't see him through the years like I should have .
Life tends to lead everyone on separate paths but the memories I shared with him and his family will always remain with me and in my heart forever.*

To his family and my dearest friend Karen Ray. I am deeply saddened for your loss.

He is now with his best friend Mrs Hudgins and his Savior . Let that bring a smile to your face and comfort to your broken hearts.

Susan Lewis - January 02 at 12:28 PM

JW

“ Ray and I had known each other since 1984. We met at the tobacco shop in Carrollton where my former wife had worked. We both bought Volvo dump trucks from the same company after Ray talked me into going into the hauling business. We formed a friendship at that time. Ray was a great guy and I really enjoyed having him as a friend. If I had been told about the funeral arrangements I would have attended. Ray will be missed. Rest in peace Ray, I know you are in the Lord's arms.

Jack Williamson - January 02 at 04:01 AM

KS

“ Kwi Cha & Charlotte Ann Severin purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Ray Hudgins.



Kwi Cha & Charlotte Ann Severin - December 30, 2025 at 05:01 PM

JR

“ Our families shared many camping trips with the NCHA Peanut Pickers.



James Rogers - December 28, 2025 at 06:47 PM

AE

“ Allison & Ethan purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Ray Hudgins.



Allison & Ethan - December 27, 2025 at 07:13 PM

BL

“ So sorry to hear of Ray's passing. I just saw him at Golden Corral last Thursday. It was fun reminiscing about our days at Busch Gardens. A few years back I was out of work, and Ray was the only person who called me to see how I was doing. I never forgot that. Ray will be missed by all who knew him. May he rest in peace. Bill Lent

Bill Lent - December 26, 2025 at 05:08 PM

KV

Our grandpa we miss and love you so much ☐ I know you always around us looking us from heaven ❤️ You in my heart forever ❤️ I promise i will take of care Amos very good we love him and will give him the best life we can .Go ahead and meet the lovely wife you love , sir ❤️ Goodbye grandpa we will meet again there 🙏👤♀ Rest in Peace Grandpa 💔 I miss you so much 😞

Kathy Vo - December 27, 2025 at 02:10 PM

TJ

We watched his service on line it was beautiful a service and so touching Ray was a great man and friend my husband and I will miss his calls to us. He was always checking to make sure we were doing ok. He gave me your mom's diabetes supplies after she passed away. That was so kind of him. Really will miss him at Golden Coral. His family was everything to him and Mary Lou. Troy and Sandra Jones

Troy Jones - January 02 at 01:46 PM