



Ray Lea Freeman

OCT 16, 1951 - JUL 9, 2021



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H.T. MAY & SONS
FUNERAL HOME
ALEXANDER-MAY FUNERAL HOME

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Ray Lea Freeman

OCT 16, 1951 - JUL 9, 2021

Ray L. Freeman, 69, of Jacksonville, FL, formerly of Boonville, MO, passed away on Friday, July 9, 2021 at the E.T. York Care center in Gainesville, FL. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 11:00 AM at the H.T. May and Sons Funeral Home in Boonville. Visitation will from 9:30-11AM Saturday at the funeral home. . Services will be live-streamed through Facebook on Saturday, July 31, 2021, at 11:00 AM at <https://www.facebook.com/htmayfuneralhome>.

Our beloved Ray Lea Freeman, who lived a life rooted in the virtues of strength, faith, transformation, and loving-kindness, was born to Margaret Freeman on October 16th, 1951 in Blackwater Missouri. The family soon after moved to Boonville, MO, where he was raised by his mother Margaret and father Sylvester Burnham.

Ray Lea grew up in a close-knit neighborhood on Water Street in Boonville - a deeply familial community that truly embodied the essence of the ancient African proverb, "It takes a whole village to raise a child". Ray Lea, with his infectious smile and brotherly demeanor, developed friendly ties with each family in the neighborhood. He was outgoing, friendly, funny and caring. Even as a child he would help anyone in need, and his reputation of "never knowing a stranger" preceded him throughout the years.

As a teenager Ray Lea was no stranger to hard work (and hard play!); he spent many a summer enthusiastically hauling hay to save money and having a great time getting into good trouble with friends and family. During these years he also became highly adept at athletics. He participated competitively in track and football, but was particularly fascinated with bodybuilding and fitness. As Ray's athletic career blossomed, he started to compete in weight lifting, which earned him the nickname of The Black Incredible Hulk. His strength and athletic ability led to many accolades, including his placement on the Football team at Kemper Military School and College.

After graduation, Ray worked for the Reform School for Boys, in both Boonville and Kansas City, Missouri, spent several years employed at the Boonville Correctional Center, as well as at Joe Machen's Ford as a car salesman. Until Ray's retirement he worked as a Corporate Trainer for the Cracker Barrel franchise and created many wonderful memories with family, friends, and colleagues during his time there. Ray Lea had a love of classic cars: one in particular was an



Obituary

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Oldsmobile Cutlass, yellow and black - the original bumble bee! This car is still in New Franklin today and is a testament to his unique taste and persona. It's a special reminder that Ray's presence left an impactful and lasting impression on everyone who knew him.

In 1998 Ray married his wife Juliette. They spent their time traveling and enjoying foods of all kinds, especially Barbecue. Ray was a connoisseur of Midwest Barbecue and shared his Barbecue talents with all, and was always first in line when the grill was hot.

Ray Lea was truly a man of God. 2 Timothy 2:15 says study to shew thyself approved unto God . Ray Lea devoted the first two hours of every morning to the Lord our God, by hearing, reading, studying and by sharing His word to many.

He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife, Juliette Freeman of the home; one son Ben Connole (Candice), Pearl River, LA., seven daughters, Lena Freeman of Largo, FL, Jeannette Logsdon of Gonzales, LA. Bernadette Woods (Ryan) of Madisonville, LA., Colette Cruise(Jason) of Bonaire, GA. Stephanie Gardner (Treal) of Boonville, MO., Mary Watkins of Spring Lake NC, and Sasha Coleman of Kansas City, KS; one Brother Ron Freeman of Lee's Summit, MO.; five sisters, Erma Bruce of Grandview, MO., Willa Jones of Kansas City, MO., Nellie Sims and Elaine Miles both of Boonville, MO. and Cynthia Grant (Greg) of Columbia, MO; One Aunt, Emma Freeman of Boonville, MO., thirteen grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He will be dearly missed and held deeply in the hearts of those who carry his legacy and memory.

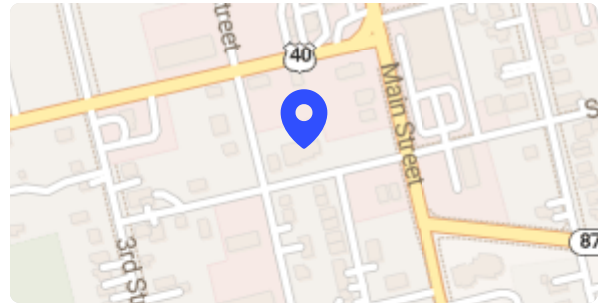


Events

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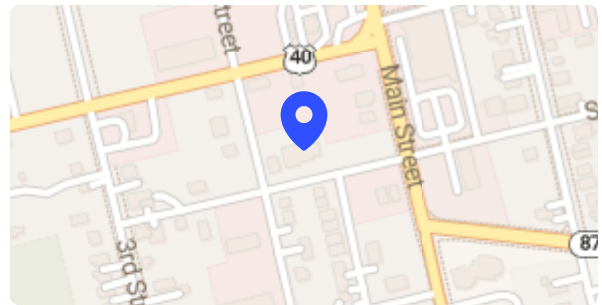
Visitation

- Saturday**, July 31, 2021
- 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM CT
- H.T. May & Sons Funeral Home**
405 Sycamore, Boonville MO 65233



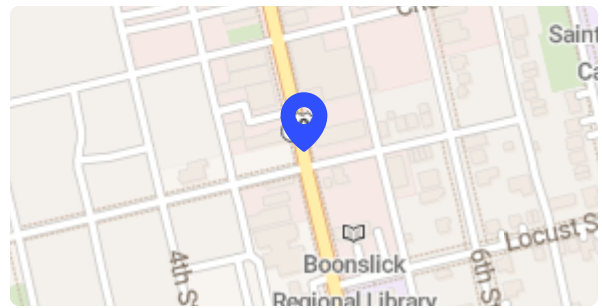
Funeral Service

- Saturday**, July 31, 2021
- 11:00 AM CT
- H.T. May & Sons Funeral Home**
405 Sycamore, Boonville MO 65233



Cemetery Details

- Boonville Memorial Gardens**
1200 Cherry Street, Boonville MO 65233





Tribute Wall

Ray Lea Freeman
OCT 16, 1951 - JUL 9, 2021

JP

Jaye Poindexter sent a virtual gift in honor of Ray.

August 6 at 7:06 AM



AR

April Reuter lit a candle in honor of Ray.

August 2 at 11:11 AM



EG

Emma Glavin posted:

Drinking that sweet tea today got me teary eyed, Uncle Ray ❤️ one of the last times I saw you at the wedding we laughed about us each having 3-4 glasses of that sweet tea and lemonade. I'm going to miss your big bear hugs and bonding over good food. We love you so much

July 31 at 11:56 AM

PC

Pat And Billie Connole posted:

Ray you were always a loving friend and brother. We shared a love of cooking and food. Your spirit and gentleness will be missed brother.

July 31 at 6:33 AM

TI

Tim & Joy posted:

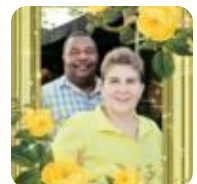
Ray, you were a great brother in law and always smiling and funny. May the Perpetual Light of God Shine on you forever. I will keep the BBQ going when we are back in KC just look out for me from time to time and know we love you! We love you and you will be missed by all! Love Joy & Tim, Bruce, Judy Mae, Veronica and Hailey.

July 30 at 9:19 PM

TC

Tim & Joy Connole shared an album called **Memories Album**.

July 30 at 9:14 PM





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Tina Glavin posted:

Ray you were a kind and gentle big brother that showered my baby sister with love. I will miss that smile and wonderful hugs. You will remain forever in my memories to warm my soul. Rest peacefully big brother.

July 30 at 10:31 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Freeman family.



July 30 at 8:02 AM



Anonymous sent a Gracious Lavender Basket to the Freeman family.



July 29 at 4:40 PM



Helen Baker posted:

My dearest Brother in Law, you will be so missed. You had a heart made of gold, a smile that was always ear to ear and a laugh that was infectious! We love and miss you so much!

July 29 at 6:59 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Freeman family.



July 28 at 6:05 PM



Cherry Parks lit a candle in honor of Ray.

Our sincere condolences to the family. Ezell & Cherry Parks

July 28 at 12:58 PM





Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Freeman family.

July 27 at 2:28 PM



Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Freeman family.

July 27 at 10:20 AM



Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Freeman family.

July 27 at 9:15 AM



Monica Richey Pfeiffer lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 26 at 11:08 AM



Theresa & Henry Hurt lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 26 at 10:13 AM



Adolphus & Arlene Alexander lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 26 at 6:38 AM





Tribute Wall

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JE

Janice Estill lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 24 at 10:11 AM



CE

Chaneta Elbert lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 24 at 9:58 AM



TH

Tammy Harris lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 24 at 7:22 AM



JA

Jacie lit a candle in honor of Ray.

Uncle Ray I'll miss you so much. No matter how much time went in between visits you always took the time to sit and chat. I'm going to miss those big bear hugs.

July 21 at 5:39 PM



SB

Sylvester Briscoe lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 21 at 9:48 AM



SB Sylvester Briscoe July 21 at 10:22 AM

I thought of the words or the superlatives that I could convey and the one that fits is Ray Lee ,that says it all.Rest in Peace.John 3 ;16



Tribute Wall

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Melissa Olsen lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 21 at 7:14 AM



Anthony Ray sent a virtual gift in honor of Ray.

July 21 at 7:00 AM



Sam Flores lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 21 at 6:47 AM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Freeman family.

July 21 at 4:35 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful Heart Bouquet to the Freeman family.

July 20 at 6:01 PM



Anonymous sent a Sweet Remembrance Spray to the Freeman family.

July 20 at 4:28 PM





Tribute Wall

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BH

Barbara Hester lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 20 at 3:58 PM



AR

Alice Rieves lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 20 at 3:48 PM



MF

Matt & Vonnie Fairley lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 20 at 7:08 AM



ME

Melissa Estill lit a candle in honor of Ray.

Condolences to the Freeman family. He was a good friend always grinning and a classmate. RIP my friend. Melissa E.

July 18 at 1:08 PM



AP

Alesia Poindexter sent a virtual gift in honor of Ray.

My love and deepest sympathy to the Freeman family. Ray Lee was simply the best of the best. His jovial laugh, his beautiful and loving spirit will be missed. God bless you.

July 16 at 5:14 PM



JC

Jason Cruise posted:

There are no words how much you will be missed. I will treasure your memories of your friendship forever. I will treasure every moment that we shared, missing you, until we meet again. REST WELL. I LOVE YOU!BIG JAY

July 16 at 1:22 PM



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JS

Jaime Smith lit a candle in honor of Ray.

So so sorry for your loss Ray will be greatly missed by many RIH OG Ray Lee Freeman 🌹

July 16 at 6:09 AM



MB

Mr & Mrs Frank Bruce lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 14 at 5:01 PM



MB **Mr & Mrs Frank Bruce** July 14 at 5:07 PM

Our Prayers and Love to the family Ray was a very wonderful person with a lovely smile always had something nice to say we miss him may God Bless each of you we Love you.

PJ

Patti Jackson lit a candle in honor of Ray.

My prayers to all the Freeman Family.

July 14 at 10:04 AM



MT

Ma Turner lit a candle in honor of Ray.

Our prayers are with you and my your find comfort knowing he is at peace with the Lord. Al & Margaret

July 13 at 4:26 AM



AR

Angela Rainey lit a candle in honor of Ray.

I will truly miss my beloved Uncle Ray Lea! He always made me feel special and I showed me love! Your Niece Ann "Jones" Rainey

July 12 at 5:22 AM





Tribute Wall

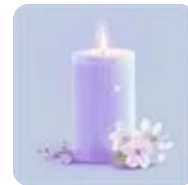
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DJ

Diann Jones lit a candle in honor of Ray.

Condolences from my family to Ray Freeman's family. Ray always had a smile and kind words whenever I saw him. Will pray for the family. Diann Jones

July 11 at 7:27 AM



BW

Bobby Welliver posted:

Ray Lee, I will miss you my friend! You helped me be the man I am today! Your soul was gentle and kind! We will be missing someone special here on Earth but Heaven will be better with you there! My sincerest condolences to the family! Ray Lee was a special person and he helped a lot of us be better people. You can rest assured his legacy lives on in those of us who were lucky enough to be around him and learn the many life lessons he taught us! Bobby Welliver

July 10 at 1:35 PM

FB

Frank Bruce lit a candle in honor of Ray.

A good friend. So sorry to hear of his passing. Prayers and condolences to the family he will be missed.

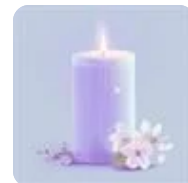
July 9 at 7:26 PM



NF

Natesia Fisher lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 9 at 3:31 PM



KH

Kay D. Hopkins lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 9 at 2:55 PM



AR

Anthony Ray lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 9 at 11:32 AM





Tribute Wall

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DC

Donna Coleman lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 9 at 10:59 AM



VM

Viretta Mcquitty lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 9 at 10:25 AM



PN

Phyllis Newman lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 9 at 10:05 AM



DM

Debbie Hurt Moore lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 9 at 9:51 AM



DR

Darrell Rowles lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 9 at 9:49 AM



CL

Carolyn Lucas lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 9 at 7:59 AM





Tribute Wall

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The Givens Family lit a candle in honor of Ray.

July 9 at 7:27 AM





Media

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Tim & Joy Connole shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

July 30 at 9:14 PM



Ray & Julie 2018



Memories only last if you share them

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



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