



James Ray

November 23, 1956 - May 31, 2021

James William Ray (known as Jimmy in his younger years), 64, passed away unexpectedly on May 31, 2021 at Memorial Hospital. He was born November 23, 1956 in Atlanta, Ga. to James and Dorothy Beall Ray.

James and his family moved to Jacksonville while he was in elementary school. He graduated from Englewood High School and attended Jacksonville University. During his academic years, he was involved

with many clubs and activities including Key Club, Student Council, Hi-Y and was the Senior Class President.

James began his career in sales but found his true calling in the financial industry serving as an advisor for over 35 years for Shearson Lehman, Smith Barney, Raymond James and NewBridge Securities.

James was a former member of the Kiwanis Club, the Rotary Club, the Friars, the River Club, the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club and the Timuquana Country Club. It was at Timuquana Country Club where he developed his love/hate relationship with the game of golf. He spent many hours there with clients and good friends.

James knew how to light up a room. His laughter was infectious and he always had fun and engaging stories to share. He was always up for a conversation about current events whether it be politics, business, sports or a myriad of other topics.

Family and friends were important to James and he loved celebrating the holidays in their company. He enjoyed watching the excitement of others opening their gifts during the Christmas holidays and on birthdays. He will be well remembered for his Easter tradition of hiding Easter eggs filled with money and making sure each child found one. There are many fond memories of the laughter and joy he brought to the dining table during those celebrations.

James' pride and joy was his only son, Evan, with whom he enthusiastically shared his love of football, baseball, skiing, boating, traveling and golf (of course).

James is predeceased by his father, James Virgil Ray. He is survived by his mother, Dorothy Beall Ray; his wife, Leigh Maxwell Ray; son, Evan Maxwell Ray; sister Judy Ray Davis (Allen); and nieces Sarah Davis Rotich (Nathan) and Emily Davis (Mitchell).

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, June 26, 2021, at the home of Diane and Baker Madison, 4205 Ortega Boulevard from 4:00-6:00 PM. James' family invites all friends, clients and colleagues to join in the celebration.

James donated to many causes in his lifetime, but the one nearest to his heart was the YMCA. He believed that every child should have an opportunity to enjoy sports and he gave generously to their sports scholarship programs. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made to First Coast YMCA. Please designate "In honor of James William Ray". Donations may be mailed to:

First Coast YMCA

Attention: Donations

40 East Adams Street Suite 210

Jacksonville, FL 32202

Previous Events

Celebration Of Life

JUN 26.

[home](#)

Tribute Wall



“ *James Ray*

October 20, 2022 at 02:31 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of James' passing. We were clients of his and I will never forget opening my daughter's account with him 2 years ago. She got to 'sign' her paperwork opening her account. I will miss his calls checking in on us and catching up. Sending our deepest condolences and best wishes to his family. May he Rest In Peace.*

❤️ *Rebecca & Nixon Barbour*



Rebecca Barbour - June 24, 2021 at 02:07 PM



“ *What a pleasure to be around and a funny character he was. Rest in peace old friend.*

Kevin Gallagher - June 21, 2021 at 03:43 PM