



## Ray Samuel Crickenberger

April 28, 1931 - November 3, 2020

Ray Samuel Crickenberger, 89, passed away peacefully in Tallahassee, Florida on November 3, 2020. He was born on April 28, 1931 in Waynesboro, Virginia, the youngest of eight children. A former Westminster Oaks resident, Ray most recently lived at St. Augustine Plantation. He is survived by his sisters Reba Patterson and Elizabeth Stephenson, his daughters Carol O’Cain (Steven) and Ralene Carroll (Tim Flynn), grandchildren Samuel and Daniel O’Cain, Jordan Carroll, Whitney Carroll Wolf (Jeffrey), great-grandchildren Douglas and Piper Wolf, sisters-in-law Pauline Miller and Emma Louise Grant, brother-in-law O.W. Gilbert, Jr., and many nieces and nephews. Ray was predeceased by his cherished wife of 20 years, Arlene, his parents, Joseph and Bertie Wiseman Crickenberger, brothers Carthon, Joe, and Harry Earl, sisters Virginia and Waltine, and son-in-law, Douglas Carroll.

A proud native of the Shenandoah Valley, Ray was educated in Augusta County, Virginia, graduating from Wilson Memorial High School in Fishersville. He obtained Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Agricultural Economics from Virginia Technological University, Blacksburg, Virginia. Ray’s distinguished career spanning over 30 years was spent with the USDA Statistical Service in Virginia, Washington D.C., New Jersey and Florida, retiring as Deputy State Statistician in 1991, in Orlando.

In his quiet and unassuming way, Ray inspired all of us to be better people. With a true servant’s heart, he always put others first. Ray’s passion for the Lord was evident through diverse, lifelong service to the church, including post-retirement mission efforts in Nicaragua, Haiti, and the local jail system. A tireless volunteer and mentor, Ray was truly an advocate to alleviate hunger and homelessness. His sweet smile was contagious to everyone. In his “spare time,” he enjoyed supporting the Maitland Symphony Orchestra, reading, traveling, gardening and spending time with family on Sanibel Island. Ray demonstrated what it means to be a loving and faithful husband, son, brother, “Uncle Pete”, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. We will miss our “Gonga” dearly and look forward to a sweet reunion in heaven.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the staff of St. Augustine Plantation, the Tallahassee Memorial Hospital CICU, Palliative Care Team, and Big Bend Hospice for their compassionate care. Memorial services are planned for a later date. Final resting place will be Barren Ridge Church of the Brethren Cemetery, Staunton, Virginia. Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family. (<http://www.bevisfh.com> 850-385-2193)

In lieu of flowers, donations to one of the following are suggested: Lafayette Presbyterian Church or Second Harvest of the Big Bend (Tallahassee), Maitland Presbyterian Church or The Sharing Center (Longwood), Barren Ridge Church of the Brethren or Blue Ridge Area Food Bank (Virginia).

# Comments

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“ I'm grateful to Ray's family members for sharing their love for Ray by telling about his life and what he meant to them. Though I knew him as a neighbor and friend, his quiet and unassuming manner meant that I was never able to learn so much about his life as I have reading his obituary. He was VERY reticent to talk about himself, and I regret that I never had the chance to hear more. He was all that you have said him to be, and I regret that COVID made it impossible to see him these last several months. I hope that you will be able to have some kind of service by way of the Internet, so that we can all participate, and remember and pay tribute to him as we celebrate his faith-filled life. I know that all of you who are part of his family and long-time friends will miss his quiet presence immensely. He truly blessed all who came into his presence. My heart goes out to you, in prayer, Greta Reed

**Greta Reed** - November 12, 2020 at 09:44 PM

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“ Ray was a gentle man who I greatly admired. We first worked together in the Livestock Branch, Statistical Reporting Service, USDA in 1962. Throughout his career, Ray was a thoughtful, deliberate thinking person who always gave his best. He was an inspiration for many and I remember him with fondness.

Jim Olson  
Raleigh, NC

**Jim Olson** - November 10, 2020 at 01:14 PM

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“ When Ray was USDA's Statistical Reporting Service's "State Statistician" for New Jersey, he launched my 41 year career with USDA. I am forever grateful. Ray was a kind, mild-mannered southern gentleman. He had "a calming effect" about him. He was encouraging and interested in your success. Ray was held in very high esteem by his colleagues throughout his USDA career.

Chris Cadwallader  
Delaware

**Chris Cadwallader** - November 10, 2020 at 05:29 AM

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“ I will always remember Ray for the kindness he showed to me. He had a humble spirit and kind heart. As a young minority in my first job, I was very fortunate to have him as my boss early in my career.

**Kevin Barnes** - November 09, 2020 at 07:02 PM

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“ I will miss Ray's calmness and smile. He visited me when I needed that calmness and love. I remember how he enjoyed sitting on the piano bench, singing Christmas carols with daughters Ralene and Carol. Rest in Peace, Ray. Love, Bea MacDonald and family.

**Beatrice N MacDonald** - November 09, 2020 at 09:54 AM

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“ Will miss you gentle smile and visits during Crickenberger family reunions. Rest in peace Uncle Pete. Love Jennifer Early Pitsenbarger

**Jennifer Pitsenbarger** - November 07, 2020 at 07:39 PM