



## Albert "Ray" Coats

October 16, 1945 - October 24, 2021

Albert "Ray" Coats, age 76, passed away suddenly on October 24, 2021 in Tallahassee, Florida. Ray was born in Monticello, Arkansas on October 16, 1945 to parents Tolliver and Doris Coats. He moved to Tallahassee in 1986 and managed the local Big 10 Tires with his wife, Barbara.

Ray was an avid outdoorsman – he liked to fish both freshwater and saltwater but his true passion was hunting. Ray particularly loved bowhunting deer and spent much of his retirement doing just that. He was also a skilled blacksmith and member of Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA). True to his passion for the outdoors, Ray incorporated deer antlers, pinecones, and various natural materials into his blacksmithing artistry. Although the various knives he crafted were functional, they were truly works of art born from his creativity and perfectionism.

Ray is remembered for his quick wit, his humor, and his love for his precious chihuahua "Chevy" who accompanied him almost everywhere he went. In fact, he even taught Chevy how to track deer.

Survivors include his loving wife, Barbara Harry Coats; children Zane Coats, Gabe Coats, Michael Gandiana, Chris Gandiana, and Jean Gandiana; sister Kay Rich and her husband Harley, as well as a host of extended family members who will miss him and his larger-than-life personality dearly. Ray

was preceded by his parents as well as his siblings, Janice Lewis and Warren Coats.

A celebration of Ray's life will be held at his home on Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 12:00 – 5:00 PM.

Breanna Green of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. (850-385-2193 or [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com))

# Tribute Wall

JL

“ Ray was like a younger grandfather to me. He and I worked together for 6 years until he semi retired. He shared a lot of stories with me: Some include his fathers hunting dogs being “dipped” too long, his GTO, tire store stories, would be briefcase robbing at his driveway etc. I was just at Ray and Barbara’s earlier in October and was glad to see them both as it had been a year or since I had last seen them both. Ray and Barbara are some of the most welcoming people who accept others almost as family. Ray will be sorely missed but not forgotten.

---

**Joe Lyles** - November 01, 2021 at 08:47 PM

BR

“ Barbara, please accept our condolences. Ray holds a special spot in Bob’s heart. We were sorry to hear of his accident and passing. Our knives are certainly more special now. Reach out if we can help in any way. Prayers for comfort and peace. Bob and Janie Ross

---

**Bob and Janie Ross** - October 30, 2021 at 11:09 AM

AC

“ Barbara, So very sorry to hear of this tragic news. I will be thinking of you and sending lots of hugs and prayers your way. Please let me know if there is anything that i can do to help you get through this difficult time. I know you loved him and he will be greatly missed. Love, Allison Clark (B.L.A.H)

---

**Allison Clark** - October 30, 2021 at 07:55 AM

JL

“ Ray has been for years certainly one of my Best Friends. Gosh how many times have we hunted hogs and deer together for years at our Jerry Green lease in South Georgia. Great times and irreplaceable Memories. One of the most treasured memories would be the 8 point that I shot and that Ray trailed for me. I'll always remember deep in the swamp with the both of us hugging each other and jumping up and down after we found him. This certainly isn't the only deer and hog that we trailed together, and they all had special memories and always will. God Bless my Dear Friend. You will be missed on this earth.

*Jim Landrum*

---

**Jim Landrum** - October 29, 2021 at 05:19 PM

SA

“ Barbara, We're sorry for your loss and send prayers to you and your family. Love, Joedy and Sandy

---

**sandy** - October 29, 2021 at 12:40 PM

WP

“ Barbara, Kay & Zane my heart breaks for your deep loss. Ray was a terrific man and was loved by everyone that knew him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family❤️🙏

*Wendi & Tim Patterson*

---

**Wendi Patterson** - October 29, 2021 at 10:06 AM

JC

“ Chuck and I will miss Ray so much. We enjoyed getting together on Fridays for lunch with Barbara and Ray. Barbara and her family are in our thoughts and prayers and Barbara knows we are both here for her.



---

**Jackie and Chuck Clemens** - October 29, 2021 at 09:04 AM

KR

“ I am so sorry Ms Barbara. Joe and I are praying for you and your family.

---

**Kendra Roberts** - October 29, 2021 at 08:16 AM

LD

“ Barbara, I am so sorry to hear about Ray. My thoughts and prayers are with you and all of your family. Much love, Leigh Dixon

---

**Leigh Dixon** - October 28, 2021 at 06:42 PM

JC

“ I knew Ray as a quiet and cerebral soul who was passionate for few things. He loved his hunting, he loved his knives and assorted weaponry, he loved his football, he loved his dog, Chevy, and he loved his Barbara... I also know Barbara loved her Ray. She was a passionate advocate for him and his loves, ready to defend he and they at high costs. I know this for certain...

*We should all be as fortunate to have such in a life... Mr Ray will certainly be missed by friends and family alike. A man such as Ray garners that respect in life and memory in death. While we grieve the loss and deal with the fact of Ray's passing, we must also rest assured that he is now in God's care and keep.*

*May you Rest Peacefully Mr Ray*

*John Cone*

---

**John Cone** - October 28, 2021 at 06:18 PM

EH

“ *Barbara and family: We were so sorry to hear about Ray , our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family. Ed & Debbie Hightower*

---

**Edwin Hightower** - October 27, 2021 at 05:31 PM