



Raymond Lawton Kickliter

December 19, 1933 - February 14, 2016

Raymond Lawton Kickliter died on February 14, 2016, in the Westminster Oaks Health Center after a lengthy illness. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held in the Maguire Center at Westminster Oaks on Saturday, February 27 at 3:00 p.m. with Brant Copeland, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, presiding. A reception and visitation with family will follow in the Maguire Center.

Ray is survived by his wife of 60 years, Patricia Ann Potter (Patsy), a son Keith (Vicki), daughter Laura (Rex), brother, Bill (Ann), sister Sharon Flower, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and beloved grandson, Clay.

Born December 19, 1933, in Tampa, Ray was the son of Curtis and Bonnie Kickliter. He graduated from Hillsborough High School and then attended Florida State School of Music, graduating in 1955 with a degree in Choral Music Education. After serving in the U.S. Air Force for three years, Ray did graduate work at Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville. He returned to Tallahassee in 1966 to become the Choral Director at Leon High School, a position he held for 22 years. After four years as Choral Director at Godby High School, he retired from the Leon County School system in 1993. Countless students have developed a lifelong love of singing thanks to the leadership and training provided by Ray Kickliter. He created a “tradition in a song” at Leon High that continues to this day.

Ray was active in Sigma Chi Fraternity, the Florida Vocal Association (FVA),

the Florida Music Educators Association (FMEA), and the American Choral Director's Association (ACDA). He held the office of President for FVA and FMEA, and was Treasurer for many years for the Florida ACDA. In 2002 ACDA awarded Ray Kickliter the Wayne Hugoboom Award for outstanding service and in 2012 he was inducted into the FVA Hall of Fame. Under his leadership the Florida Vocal Association instituted the first All State Reading Choir in the nation and began a progressive movement to implement World Music into school music programs. Ray was Leon High School's Teacher of the Year, 1986-1987.

Ray and Patsy are members of First Presbyterian Church where Ray served as a Choir Director, Elder and chaired many committees for the church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to First Presbyterian Pre-School at First Presbyterian Church, 110 N. Adams St., Tallahassee, Florida 32301; Westminster Oaks Benevolent Fund, 4449 Meandering Way, Tallahassee, Florida 32308; or the Alzheimer's Project, 301 E. Tharpe St., Tallahassee, Florida 32303.

The family would like to express their gratitude to the caregivers in the Health Center of Westminster Oaks who lovingly cared for Ray during this lengthy illness.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 27. 3:00 PM (ET)

Westminster Oaks Chapel
4449 Meandering Way
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Tribute Wall

RM

“ *My Uncle Ray was an amazing man. I am thankful for the influence he had in this life. May he enjoy his new body and mind as he spends eternity with his Savior, Jesus Christ.*

Rachel Matson - February 24, 2016 at 06:41 PM

PG

“ *My heartfelt condolences goes out to the family. Mr. Ray was an awesome man and a fantastic music teacher!*

*Patricia Greene
Class of 1973*

Patricia Greene - February 19, 2016 at 01:57 PM

EB

“ *he was my favorite teacher at Leon High School. I was in Girls and Mixed Chorus at LHS , We also shared a birthday 12/19!! Mrs. Kickliter and family my thoughts, love, and prayers are with you all, May our gracious heavenly father wrap his loving arms around you all.*



*Peace be with you
Love, Edna Butler
Leon High school
Class of 1976*

edna butler - February 18, 2016 at 03:31 PM

BE

“ My absolute FAVORITE Teacher, but always thought of as a friend, mentor, and sometimes second Dad. Pushed you to be your best, and then got you to dig down for that last bit he knew was there.....God's job just got a little easier. Thank you, Ray K, for everything. Condolences to the Family, God Bless you all.



Bill Erxleben - February 17, 2016 at 09:44 PM

GG

I am so sorry to hear of Ray's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Please know that he will be watching over you and keeping you safe. May God Bless.

Gina Griswold

Gina Griswold - February 18, 2016 at 05:42 AM

HN

I remember Ray so well--he and my husband Gary (died 12/21/13) were in Sigma Chi together at FSU. The fun and friendships enjoyed were beautiful and won't be forgotten. I have to laugh when I remember how Ray fined Gary if he showed up to Sigma Chi song practice. Gary couldn't sing! Other brothers were fined if they didn't show up! Ray was a special person and will be missed by many. My prayers are with you, Patsy, and your family during this difficult time. God bless you all.

Helen Nahrstedt

Helen Nahrstedt - February 18, 2016 at 09:07 AM

CG

Great teacher and a good man. He will be missed by many.

Craig Graham

Craig Graham - February 18, 2016 at 12:04 PM

VS

"When the Great Writer comes, to write against your name, He writes not if you won or lost, but how you played the game." Ray taught us all how to play the game and what was really important. May your memory be eternal, Ray. Rest in Peace. Valerie Stafford-Mallis, Class of '73

Valerie Stafford-Mallis - February 20, 2016 at 10:34 AM