



Raymond Paul Bray

February 9, 1952 - March 18, 2019

NORWAY- Raymond P. Bray age 67 of Norway, passed away while being comforted by his family and close friends Monday, March 18, 2019.

He was born on February 9, 1952 in Norway, the son of the late Andrew and Ethel (Cronick) Bray.

He was a 1970 graduate of Norway High School where he was an outstanding athlete lettering in all that he played. He went on to play football at Northern Michigan University for 4 years, where he earned his teaching degree in 1974.

Raymond was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing and trapping. Raymond poured his heart and soul into creating Bray's Hunting Lodge, it was his happy place. He could always be found riding, checking cameras and building blinds. On his many hunting adventures, he always found great success bagging trophy bucks. He also captured a record setting Michigan bear while hunting in Hermansville.

Raymond went on to teach for 33 years retiring from Norway High School, as the PE/Drivers Education teacher, where he passionately coached basketball and football. There, he was lucky enough to coach his own son Brett from the sidelines. He had a love for coaching that could never be denied. While at Norway High school he impacted many players throughout his years where he

instilled a hard work ethic on and off the field or court. He believed in determination and digging deep when times were rough, to find a little more fight to get the job done, passing along a quote to his grandson, "Don't ever let anybody tell you, you can't, because you can." He lived for playing, watching and coaching sports. He met his lifelong career goals: 40 years of coaching and 40 years of reffing. He enjoyed the past couple of years relaxing in the stands watching his grandson play high school sports. He still enjoyed running the classic "Gold Medal" basketball tournament where he was manager for 31 years meeting many great players along the way.

Raymond was also loyal member of Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Union, Local 111 for 30 years.

Raymond is survived by his wife: Sally, his children: Rae Anne (Kevin) Seat & grandson Zach. Brett (Alicia) Bray, Dominic & Sophia. Kylie Bray & granddaughter Graylynn. Step daughters: Kristin (Jason) & Gage Gendron, Amy (Evan) Broden. Brother Kenneth Bray, sister Pamela Hinds; mother-in-law Connie Secrist, sisters-in-law Debbie Secrist and Sherry Rose; brother-in-law Roger (Chris) Secrist; and several nieces and nephews; Special Buddy Harry Recla and many more great friends.

He was preceded in death by both his parents, brothers Lupo Bray and Andrew Bray.

Family will greet friends on Tuesday, March 26 from 4-7 p.m. at St. Barbara's Church in Vulcan.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday at 7 p.m. at St. Barbara's Church with Fr. Timothy Ekaitis officiating.

May his legacy live on in the memories he created with so many. We will miss

you "King Raym." You will be forever in our hearts.

The family will be establishing a memorial scholarship fund in Raymond's name.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **26**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Barbara's Church
159 Mission Street
Vulcan, MI 49892

Memorial Mass

MAR **26**. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. Barbara's Church
159 Mission Street
Vulcan, MI 49892

Tribute Wall

PA

“ He was not only my brother, he was my friend. His loss has left me a different person. He always had an ear, my back and loved his family like no other. Not a day goes by that I do not miss his smile, his words. He was not just a brother. His love for people particularly his family and students cannot ever be replaced. Rest in peace my loving brother... I miss you and love your family.

pam - September 29, 2022 at 12:55 PM

AN

“ Very kind man he was my drivers ed teacher in norway he will be missed by many

angie - April 09, 2019 at 12:57 AM

SF

“ In the Love that surrounds you,
May you find Strength;
In the Memories you Cherish,
fMay you find Peace.



God's Love and Blessings to the Family of Ray, From the Parish Family of St Mary's

St Mary's Parish Family - April 02, 2019 at 01:52 PM

HM

“ Holly McCarthy-Biolo lit a candle in memory of Raymond Paul Bray



Holly McCarthy-Biolo - March 28, 2019 at 12:42 PM

MM

“ So sorry for you lose. Thoughts and prayers are with you. Mark and Hunter McCarthy

Mark McCarthy - March 27, 2019 at 09:05 AM

NL

“ Nancy LaFreniere lit a candle in memory of Raymond Paul Bray



Nancy LaFreniere - March 26, 2019 at 09:30 AM

MK

“ RIP to my good friend. Teaching with him at NHS was something I will not forget. I will always remember his smile and laugh. His humor and wit were legendary. I always enjoyed hearing all the nicknames he created for every student. He was truly a U.P. hall of gamer! Milt and Bonnie Krznarich

Milt Krznarich - March 26, 2019 at 07:38 AM

JB

“ For those of us who knew him as our teammate, you made us proud, and you made us better athletes. For those who never saw him on the court or on the field in the Navy and White, you truly missed something. Thanks for all the memories. Friends are made, you have many. Jim Bonetti “70”

Jim Bonetti - March 25, 2019 at 10:10 PM

CM

“ *Mr. Bray was a wonderful man, a great teacher, an unforgettable couch, and the best drivers ed teacher there ever was. He will be sorely missed, and will be forever in our memories. Our Deepest sympathies go out to the family. ~The Manowski Family*

Christine Malone - March 25, 2019 at 04:44 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Raymond Paul Bray.*



March 23, 2019 at 08:40 PM

ST

“ *Susan Tinti lit a candle in memory of Raymond Paul Bray*



Susan Tinti - March 22, 2019 at 02:01 PM

SE

“ *MY CONDOLENCES TO THE BRAY FAMILY. I GOT TO KNOW RAY THROUGH SOFTBALL AND BASKETBALL. ABOUT AS EASY GOING AS THEY COME. GOT TO KNOW HIM WELL THROUGH THE HERMANVILLE TOURNAMENT. GREAT SMILE AND A GREAT GUY.*

*STEVE ERICKSON
ESCANABA, MICHIGAN*

STEPHEN T ERICKSON - March 22, 2019 at 12:59 PM

RF

“ *Sally and Family~
You are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.
Ray was a special man. His smile was contagious.
Rob and Lyn Forstrom*

Rob and Lyn Forstrom - March 21, 2019 at 05:17 PM

JA

“ *I was a teammate of Rays at NMU. He was a good man, good
player, and a good coach. RIP Wildcat Ray.*

Jim Anderdon - March 21, 2019 at 01:27 PM

TM

“ *Coach you will be missed. Taking your words into the USMC, then
living with those words long after, you helped shape my life by
instilling that never give up attitude. From a kid with no physical
talent on the field - Thank You Coach! Rest now - we got this! To
coach's family and friends - our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Thank you for sharing him with us. NCA Jet*

Todd Mahoney - March 21, 2019 at 12:12 PM

TK

“ *I was a teammate of Rays at Northern, what a good guy as well as
a player. My deepest sympathy to his family, RIP Ray .*

Tim Kearney

Tim Kearney - March 21, 2019 at 11:11 AM

JA

Jim Anderson

I was a teammate of Rays at NMU. Ray was a good man, player, and coach. RIP Wildcat Ray.

Jim Anderdon - March 21, 2019 at 12:40 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Raymond Paul Bray.*



March 20, 2019 at 09:46 PM

RS

“ *My dearest sympathy to the Ray Bray family , relatives , friends and the football people that knew Ray Bray , from Norway High School football and the Arctic Blast Football . The Bray family were and are competitors on the football and great people to get to know off of the football fields . Ray sure had ways on the football field to get the players focused . Then in the locker room and away from the field he had a great sense of humor . God Bless you Ray , you will be serving God and making the angels laugh , you and Andy , God Bless the family , relatives and friends . Randy Saatio Former football coach and helper of the Arctic Blast .*

Randy Scott Si Saatio - March 20, 2019 at 08:09 PM

GS

“ I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to Ray's family. Though I hadn't spoken to or seen Ray in many years I coached against him in both football and basketball. I also played basketball against him in quite a few men's tourneys. I always liked and respected Ray. He was taken from this world far too young. I am so sorry for your loss. RIP Ray. Gerry Suardini, Gwinn

Gerry Suardini - March 20, 2019 at 03:38 PM

RB

“ I played football at NMU with Ray the same years and you become bonded together for life, sorry to learn of his passing. Rest in peace number 46, Go Cats!

Randy Bye - March 20, 2019 at 01:13 PM

DM

“ My deepest sympathy..Ray coached my son in football he was a great coach nothing but the upmost respect for him..bless his whole family

dm - March 20, 2019 at 11:19 AM

TP

“ RIP Ray... you were an amazing role model, teacher & coach. I am happy I had an opportunity to get to know you along with my son Tanner on the football field in which you gave him his nick name like you did with all of the kids! You will be super missed... My prayers and condolences to Sally and the family.

Tiffany Poupore - March 20, 2019 at 10:04 AM

KG

“ *RIP Ray, you were an awesome teacher, coach and a great man, I know Jesus is welcoming you with open arms. I will as always remember how proud you were of me in 8th grade, when I ran the mile in 4:11. You always taught us that we were capable of our best, and you were kind to all. You will be missed* 🏆



Kristin Ann Glaser - March 19, 2019 at 09:21 PM

SW

“ *My sincere sympathy. I looked forward to seeing him every year at the Gold Medals. He was a great man*

Sister water - March 19, 2019 at 08:58 PM

MG

“ *Marlene Gwiazdon lit a candle in memory of Raymond Paul Bray*



Marlene Gwiazdon - March 19, 2019 at 08:44 PM

MG

*Our deepest sympathy to your family. Ray was a nice guy and I never heard a bad word about him. He is now with his departed family members and smiling down on all his earthly family. May God have mercy on his soul.....
Marlene Gwiazdon (cousin)*

Marlene Gwiazdon - March 19, 2019 at 08:48 PM

LS

My deepest sympathy to Ray's family. After leaving Norway, I haven't seen much of Ray, but I occasionally communicate with him via phone and Facebook. What great memories I have about the times I've spent with him. He was so laid-back and so funny. He was one of my all-time favorite people. He will be missed by so many. RIP my friend.

Larry Salina

Larry Salina - March 20, 2019 at 08:42 PM

SN

“ *My deepest condolences Sally, Brett, Kylie, Rae Ann & family. I'm glad I got to have a few words with your Ray the last time I was in the Yoop. My prayers are with you all.*



Sheryll Novak - March 19, 2019 at 08:33 PM