



Margaret Maxine Ray

August 6, 1936 - February 18, 2022

Margaret M. Ray

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Margaret Maxine Ray, age 85, passed away on Friday, February 18, 2022. Born in Burnsville NC, she was the daughter of the late Samuel Rathburn and Vernie Maney. She was also preceded in death by her husband Thomas Earl Ray and her 5 brothers and sisters - Glenn Rathburn, Ruth Ballard, Grace Hylemon, June Waldrup and Burl Rathburn.

Margaret grew up on a working farm in the mountains of western North Carolina. She loved school where she also played piano and basketball. Shortly after high school, she moved to the Detroit, Michigan area where she raised her family.

She held a number of roles in advertising sales, working for Time Life, Sports Illustrated, Discover magazine and Gannett Outdoor Advertising. In 1982, the Rays moved to the Washington DC area, where she continued her career in marketing and advertising, holding prominent roles with the Washington National Bank and a staff position for Senator John Glenn from Ohio.

In 1989, Margaret and Tom moved to Christiansburg VA and opened the nationally-acclaimed Oaks Victorian Inn. Over the next 15 years, they were able to build onto their successful and popular Bed & Breakfast business, becoming a coveted overnight destination for business travelers, tourists and visiting parents of Virginia Tech and Radford college students. In 2004, they

sold the business and retired to a quiet riverside property in Giles County. Margaret loved the arts, music and theatre. She was an accomplished, self-taught seamstress, cook, gardener and interior designer. In her retirement she remained very active in multiple organizations and donated her time generously to many local causes and charities.

Margaret is survived by her daughter Melodie Kapolka (Michael), son Chris Ray, (Mary) and beloved grandson Nicholas Kapolka. She is also survived by her brother Earl Rathburn and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be private. Margaret loved animals and artists. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Moss Arts Center in Blacksburg, or your local animal rescue. Expressions of condolences and love may be sent to www.mccoyfuneralhome.com.

The family would also like to thank Colleen Light, Catherine Hauck, Ellen Harkrader and Diana Richardson for the exceptional care, love and compassion shown to Margaret and her family over the past several years.

Tribute Wall

MR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mary Ray - April 17, 2022 at 02:00 PM

EM

“ Margaret was so active and helpful with our community as a member of the league of women voters! Love and gratitude to her family. Elva Miller

Elva Miller - February 28, 2022 at 08:32 PM

MR

Thank you, Elva. I hope you and her friends at League of Women Voters can join us at her memorial celebration in May.

Mary Ray - April 17, 2022 at 02:03 PM

HM

“ I (Holly) loved Tom and Margaret soooo much!!! They offered me a job during my college freshman orientation when my parents were staying at The Oaks. They swiftly became my family away from home. They loved me through college, sent me packages when I lived in China, bought me dishes for my wedding present, allowed me to work for them when I needed a fun summer job between my first two years of teaching, and rejoiced in my children. When we moved back to Christiansburg Margaret and I enjoyed lunches together and she came to watch my kids in their church Christmas programs. We last chatted the day after I finished decorating my Christmas tree this year. It was so appropriate because she is the one who taught me how to make trees really pretty! Margaret, thank you so much for pouring into me in so many ways; for teaching me how to arrange flowers, iron sheets, turn down beds, make people feel welcome, set boundaries with a smile, and how to fiercely love family even when they are far away. I love you! I'm so glad that you are now pain free and singing at the top of your voice!

Holly Meyer - February 22, 2022 at 08:56 PM

MR

Thank you Holly for this beautiful tribute. Love the Christmas tree comment, she really loved to decorate and to pass along her tips and tricks!

Mary Ray - February 23, 2022 at 07:13 PM

VC

“ Margaret was a dear person, and lit up any room she walked into. She was a loyal friend, a great Democrat, a consummate host, and generous soul. We will miss her! Condolences to her friends and family from Steve and Victoria Cochran

Victoria Cochran - February 22, 2022 at 08:50 AM

MG

Have been trying for several years to get in touch with my friend Margaret. Knew her and Tom when I was in the tourism industry in Blacksburg. So much fun and interesting to be with Margaret. Have thought of her so often. Sorry to learn of her death. Marilyn Goff, Baton Rouge, LA.

Marilyn Goff - February 23, 2022 at 08:40 AM

MR

Thank you so much. It has been so nice to hear from their friends all over the country.

Mary Ray - February 23, 2022 at 07:17 PM

NT

I have only known Margaret for the five years that we have been neighbors at Warm Hearth Village. She welcomed me here, introduced me to Potpourri and the programs at the Moss Center. She has been a good friend. My last memory of her is the delightful luncheon that she gave for a few of us just a few weeks before her death She was a gracious hostess and a dear friend.

Nancy Thomas- February 28

Nancy B Thomas - February 28, 2022 at 03:50 PM