



David Ray Royal

May 23, 1951 - September 17, 2020

David Ray Royal, of Rome, Georgia, passed away on September 17, 2020, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born in Sylacauga, Alabama, and was raised in Ider, Alabama by his parents Alonza and Mary Royal. As an adult he moved to Rome, Georgia, where he worked in the newspaper business. He spent 31 years with the Rome News-Tribune in various roles, and then worked for the Daily Tribune as a sports writer. He spent his free time playing the guitar, fishing, and yelling Roll Tide.

He is preceded in death by his parents, brothers Russell Royal and Arnold Royal. He is survived by his children Rachel Royal, Richard Royal and daughter-in-law Jessica West-Royal, Daniel Willingham and their mother, Joyce Royal; his sisters Patty Richie and her husband Gary, and Marie Black; brothers Finis Royal, James Royal, and Raymond Royal and his wife Vickie. Additionally, he is survived by many nieces and nephews.

A Graveside Service at Smith's Chapel Cemetery will be held Sunday September 20, 2020 at 4pm cst with Kerby Funeral Home directing.

In memory of David's love of music, the family is requesting that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to support a local artist or venue of your choosing.

In his honor, the family asks that you vote and take some time to go fishing.

Cemetery Details

Smith's Chapel Cemetery

Ider, AL

Previous Events

Service

SEP 20. 4:00 PM (CT)

Smith's Chapel Cemetery
Ider, AL

Tribute Wall



“ *David Ray Royal*

May 01, 2023 at 02:09 AM



“ *Fresh out of college, I worked with David in the Rome News-Tribune newsroom. I was wet behind the ears and he was so seasoned. He taught me so much about journalism. I moved back up north but we stayed in touch about every 6 months, talking politics mostly (and some about how proud he was of his kids, and some about his songs)—for 20 years. I always thought I’d get back and visit him, catch up over lunch. So deeply sorry to learn of his passing. He was a such a great guy. I will do my best to honor his memory. Just a really great guy.*

Barbara - September 05, 2021 at 01:59 PM



“ *My thoughts are with the entire Royal family*

Robert Walker

robert walker - September 19, 2020 at 08:34 PM



“ *So sad to hear about David's passing. He was a good guy and one of my favorite students during our long ago days at Jacksonville State University.*

Glen Browder - September 19, 2020 at 02:16 PM

CB

“ David called the song *Refried*, it was a string bending pink panther sound track on acid, well that's what I always called it. Loved it not only when he would come in for the dart games but have his guitar in his hand. As soon as I saw him I would ask for that song. It got to be where before I could even ask, he would shake his head some cutting me short, and laughingly say "I'll get to it Ray". I always really enjoyed talking to David, and listening to him play the guitar. I wish I had a recording of that song and that my youngest that plays had meet him to learn a bit.
And if you don't mind my dear, I'll take the beer.

Carl Ray Boydston - September 19, 2020 at 01:36 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden* was purchased for the family of David Ray Royal.



September 19, 2020 at 12:48 PM

KR

“ *He taught to love love music
And we sang alot together and had some good memories
He was a good man
Prayers and hugs for the family
God bless*

Kathleen Royal

Kathleen Royal - September 18, 2020 at 07:40 PM

MH

I have known David all my life. We were students together at Ider High. He was a wonderful man and friend. I am sad for his family during this time of loss. My prayers are with you

Maranda Hanawalt - September 26, 2020 at 02:17 PM

CC

I met David and his brother Finis while we were all students at Jacksonville State University. I remember them fondly. I'm so sorry to hear that he died. My condolences to his family and friends.

Carol Creel - October 12, 2025 at 12:50 PM