



Ray Thompson

February 9, 1947 - November 5, 2016

Services for Billy Ray Thompson, 69, of Tyler, will be held on Friday, November 11, 2016 at 11:00 AM at First Presbyterian Church with Dr. Stuart Baskin officiating.

Ray passed away Saturday, November 5, 2016 at his home surrounded by friends and family. He was born February 9, 1947 in Monticello, Arkansas to the late Billy Dale and Virginia Nell Lytle Thompson. He attended Davidson High School in Mobile, Alabama. He graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1969, where he was elected President of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. He received his Master of Business Administration from Louisiana State University in 1974. He was a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. He recently retired from his position as President of CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Health System.

Ray met Marilyn Marie Miller in New Orleans during Mardi Gras in 1967. They were married in Vicksburg, Mississippi on November 28, 1969. Together they lived in adventurous cities such as Austin, Texas, and New Orleans, Louisiana. Ray's career in hospital administration began at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. From there they moved to Zachary, Louisiana where Ray served as Vice President of Lane Memorial Hospital. In 1976 they officially became Texans when Ray took the position of Senior Vice President at Hermann Hospital in Houston.

On Halloween night in 1978, Ray and Marilyn welcomed their first son, Eric to

the world. Two and half years later, in July of 1981, they were blessed with the arrival of their second son, Brian. When Brian was only three months old, Ray and Marilyn made the decision to move to Tyler, Texas.

Ray joined Mother Frances Hospital in October, 1981. He partnered in restoring the organizational health of Mother Frances Hospital by creating the first cardiovascular program in East Texas. This program, along with the construction of the Dawson tower, was the impetus toward building a regional system of healthcare excellence. Soon thereafter, Mother Frances Hospital was recognized as Texas Business of the Year. Under Ray's leadership, the organization has been nationally recognized for patient safety, clinical excellence, operational efficiency, and great patient experience. In 1995, Ray helped create the partnership with the physicians of Trinity Clinic. Ray was a founding system executive of the Trinity Mother Frances Health System. Additionally, Ray was instrumental in the decision to merge with CHRISTUS Health.

Ray created Trinity Mother Frances Health System's network of regional clinics, established an expansive emergency medicine program, and created one of the nation's model sports medicine programs. He was an advocate for implementing robotic surgery, the FamilyCare Center, ConnectCare (EPIC), and the Louis and Peaches Owen Heart Hospital. His efforts led to the creation of the Ornelas Tower, regional health parks, the South Tyler Community Health Hospital, and many other facilities in East Texas.

Ray has been an active supporter of many professional and community organizations, including the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, Boy Scouts of America, and Hospice of East Texas. Ray was a leader in building new athletic facilities for both Robert E. Lee and John Tyler high schools.

Ray leaves us with a wonderful example of how to lead a balanced life. He worked tirelessly and ferociously throughout his forty plus year career. He was a fiercely devoted and loving husband and father. Marilyn was the most important thing in his life and through their forty-seven years of marriage, they

laughed together every single day. He loved to travel, especially to the Gulf Coast and the Florida Keys, though no place was more of a sanctuary to Ray and Marilyn than their Riverland property in St. Joseph, Louisiana. He was an avid hunter and outdoorsman. He took hunting trips all over the world. He had a lifelong commitment to health and fitness. For thirty years he was passionate about cycling. His workout routines were legendary. He found joy in his hours and hours of putting his boys through his thoroughly researched cutting edge (and occasionally bizarre) sports training routines. He was rarely happier than he was when he was able to watch his sons compete on the field or court. The rough and tough man that we all know and love would melt every time he was near his three grandchildren. Ray and Marilyn have raised and adored and spoiled their seven Dobermans over the years.

Ray is survived and remembered by his loving family, including his wife Marilyn of Tyler; his son Eric and his wife Elyse of Denver, CO; his son Brian and his wife Erin of Tyler; his three grandchildren Chase, Reid, and Miller; and his aunt Laverne Quimby and cousin Kerry Hackney of Monticello, Arkansas. Visitation will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2016 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy., in Tyler.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Foundation at 800 E. Dawson, Tyler, Texas 75701, the Hospice of East Texas at 4111 University Boulevard, Tyler, Texas 75701, or the charity of your choice.

Ray left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him. He had a big personality and an even bigger heart. He will be greatly missed.

Cemetery Details

Rose Lawn Cemetery

2003 Blue Mountain Blvd.
Tyler, TX 75703

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **10**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Service

NOV **11**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
230 Rusk St.
Tyler, TX 75701

Tribute Wall



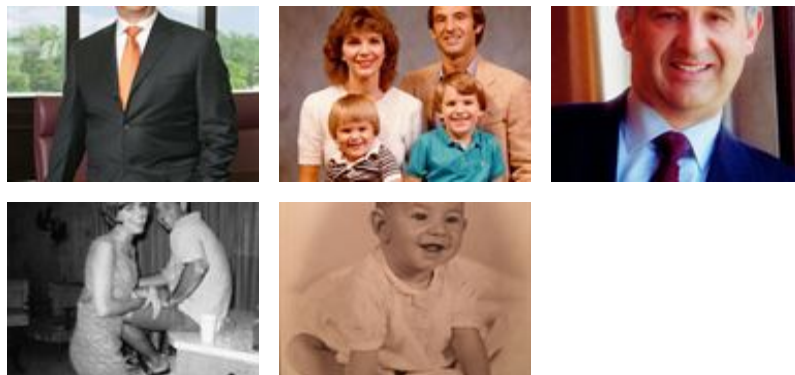
“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ray Thompson



Stewart Family Funeral Home - November 10, 2016 at 02:36 PM



“ 337 files added to the album LifeTributes



Stewart Family Funeral Home - November 10, 2016 at 11:27 AM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Ray Thompson.



November 10, 2016 at 09:44 AM



“ *Tropical Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Ray Thompson.* ”



November 09, 2016 at 06:27 PM



“ *Beth Lowe lit a candle in memory of Ray Thompson* ”



Beth Lowe - November 09, 2016 at 04:06 PM



“ *Mary & Tom Dodd purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Ray Thompson.* ”



Mary & Tom Dodd - November 09, 2016 at 11:58 AM



“ *John Montalto lit a candle in memory of Ray Thompson* ”



John Montalto - November 09, 2016 at 09:20 AM

YF

“ *Your Colorado Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Ray Thompson.*



Your Colorado Family - November 09, 2016 at 08:52 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Ray Thompson.*



November 08, 2016 at 04:46 PM

LT

“ *Lynda Tippit lit a candle in memory of Ray Thompson*



Lynda Tippit - November 08, 2016 at 02:54 PM



“ *Sunny Memories was purchased for the family of Ray Thompson.*



November 08, 2016 at 02:07 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ray Thompson.*



November 08, 2016 at 11:44 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Ray Thompson.*



November 08, 2016 at 11:44 AM



“ *Elias Fajardo & Nancy Lara-Fajardo lit a candle in memory of Ray Thompson*



Elias Fajardo & Nancy Lara-Fajardo - November 08, 2016 at 08:01 AM

CZ

“ To the family of Ray Thompson:
I am on the board of the hospital in Winnsboro. We all were blessed when Mr. Thompson came to our board meetings. He was so pleasant to be around and cared deeply for the success of our hospital. We have missed him coming to Winnsboro.
I made hot sauce (salsa) and would bring him a jar now and then. He always seemed very pleased to get it and made me feel that he really liked to eat it.
I am very sorry for your loss. His passing will leave a big hole in the hospital administration also. I will pray for your family.
Clara Ziegler

Clara Ziegler - November 08, 2016 at 07:22 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Ray Thompson.



November 08, 2016 at 04:50 AM

PH

“ Peggy and Don Heath purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Ray Thompson.



Peggy and Don Heath - November 07, 2016 at 11:39 PM

CB

“ Ray was so special in high school. He kept everyone laughing. I had the honor of being in some of his classes. He was the class clown but the teachers all loved him. I can say that everyone in the class of Davidson High School 1965 loved him. He had personality plus and he was always laughing and was a dear friend of mine. He could really cheer you up. I'm so proud of what he accomplished in life. This family lost a great man. I will pray for your family.
Candy Teufel Butler

Candy Teufel Butler - November 07, 2016 at 11:29 PM

PH

“ Marilyn, Eric and Brian,
Our deepest sympathy is extended to you for the loss of your precious husband and father. Ray was a wonderful man, such an excellent boss. He was a joy to work with for 16 years. He had an extraordinary management style, always so cheerful and funny. It made for a delightful work environment. He had so many talents and he had a wonderful heart. He will be sorely missed. May God be with you in this hour of grief.
Peggy and Don Heath

Peggy Heath - November 07, 2016 at 11:20 PM



“ Heart's Companion Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ray Thompson.



November 07, 2016 at 10:26 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ray Thompson.



November 07, 2016 at 09:08 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ray Thompson.



November 07, 2016 at 07:02 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ray Thompson.



November 07, 2016 at 03:53 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Ray Thompson.



November 07, 2016 at 12:08 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ray Thompson.* ”



November 07, 2016 at 11:53 AM