



Ralph Smith DeLoach

September 19, 1947 - January 14, 2025

DELOACH- Thoroughly disappointed in the team's underwhelming 2024 season and unwilling to sit through another embarrassing loss to Vandy, the Crimson Tide's most devoted fan called it a ballgame and concluded a life well-lived on January 14, 2025. Ralph Smith DeLoach, Jr., made his debut in Hahira, Georgia, on September 19, 1947. He was a proud Valdosta Wildcat, and to hear him tell it, the trophy cases at Valdosta High School are essentially shrines to his brief but glorious athletic career. He went on to graduate from Valdosta State College (now University). He is survived by the love of his life, Karen Maturi DeLoach, to whom he spent nearly sixty years utterly devoted; their two children and daughters-in-law, Trip & Amber DeLoach and Jennifer & Caitlin DeLoach of Lawrenceville, GA; four grandchildren who knew him as "Papa" – Emily DeLoach, Christopher DeLoach, Davis Holland (Juliette) and Madison Holland; brothers Robert DeLoach (Jackie) and Douglas DeLoach (Verona); sister Sondra Supp (Pete); sisters-in-law Pamela Carter (Danny) and Janine Pendleton (Andy); and numerous nieces and nephews who remember "Uncle R.S." being eternally young at heart and prowling around on all fours, pretending to be an angry bear while they humored him and pretended to be afraid. Ralph also loved cheering for the Atlanta Braves and managing the team from the comfort of his couch. He deeply valued his family and caramel cake, and he had no use for pretension or spicy food. For the last several years, Ralph's health has prohibited him from doing most of the things he loved – body surfing along the

shores of Ormond Beach, defeating his children at putt putt, reading spy novels, and driving while singing along and playing air guitar (no matter what instrument was actually being heard.) While he eventually had to give up these pleasures, he never wavered in his lifelong love affairs with Mountain Dew and Butterfinger candy bars. Ralph retired from Colonial Bag Company, and for years afterward he volunteered as an usher at Bethesda United Methodist Church. This turned out to be the perfect post-retirement role for the former salesman, who was a consummate extrovert. He loved making friends and serving God. He was a lifelong joker, and when Karen once observed that he was sick, he replied, "You have absolutely no idea." He is preceded in death by his parents, Ralph Smith DeLoach, Sr. and Melba McRae DeLoach of Valdosta, GA; his brother, Richard DeLoach (Betty), and his parents-in-law, Robert and Maureen Maturi of Valdosta, GA. His legacy will carry on forever, reminding us to choose our own attitudes and find something to smile about no matter the circumstance. He loved his family with his whole heart, and we will miss him with all of ours. Ralph would want you to remember him by performing a random act of kindness for a stranger, remembering to laugh at silly things, and by buying yourself a lottery ticket. He'd have also been most appreciative for any donations made in his memory to Bethesda United Methodist Church or St. Jude's Children's Hospitals. A celebration of Ralph's remarkable life will be held at Tim Stewart Funeral Home at 300 Simonton Road, Lawrenceville, GA at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 25, 2025. The family will receive visitors from 11:30 a.m. until the service begins. Arrangements by Tim Stewart Funeral Home, 300 Simonton Road SW, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046. 770-962-3100. Please sign the online guest registry at www.stewartfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 25. 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Tim Stewart Funeral Home Lawrenceville
300 Simonton Road SW
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Celebration of Life

JAN 25. 1:00 PM (ET)

Chapel of Tim Stewart Funeral Home Lawrenceville
300 Simonton Road, S.W.
Lawrenceville, GA

Tribute Wall



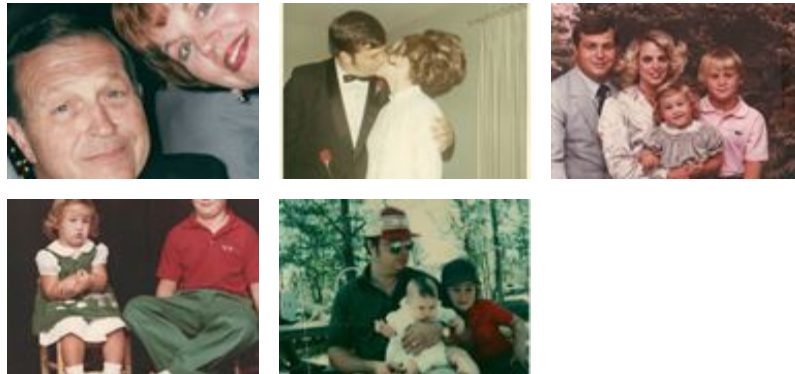
“ *Tim Stewart Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ralph Smith DeLoach*



Tim Stewart Funeral Home - January 18, 2025 at 04:04 PM



“ *20 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Tim Stewart Funeral Home - January 24, 2025 at 12:56 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Ralph Smith DeLoach.*



January 22, 2025 at 06:44 PM

YF

“ *Your brothers, sister, and the family purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Ralph Smith DeLoach.*



Your brothers, sister, and the family - January 21, 2025 at 12:43 PM

LH

“ *Laura Helms lit a candle in memory of Ralph Smith DeLoach*



Laura Helms - January 16, 2025 at 05:22 PM