

Ray Childress

September 19, 1951 - June 16, 2020

CHILDRESS – Ray Childress, age 68 of Grayson, passed away on Tuesday, June 16, 2020. Funeral Services will be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, June 20, 2020 in the Loganville Chapel of Tim Stewart Funeral Home. Pastor Chris George will officiate. Interment will follow at Corinth Memorial Gardens, 1635 Hwy 81, Loganville, GA 30052, for those wishing to attend. The family requests that if you attend the visitation or the funeral that you wear a mask. Ray graduated from Sylvan High School in 1969 and the University of Georgia in 1973 before beginning a career of 30+ years in medical device sales and management. Ray was a member of Smoke Rise Baptist Church where he also sang in the choir, which brought him the biggest joy. Ray is survived by his wife of 46 years, Beverly Needham Childress; son, Jeff Childress of Grayson; son & daughter-in-law, Eric & Ashley Childress of Chelsea, AL; grandchildren, Jeffrey, Peyton, & Hudson Childress; sister, Susan Lawrence of Smyrna; brother & sister-in-law, Robert & June Childress of Smyrna; several nieces & nephews. Flowers are accepted or donations may be made to Smoke Rise Baptist Church, 5901 Hugh Howell Road, Stone Mountain, GA 30087. The family will receive friends from 1:30 PM until 3:00 PM on Saturday, June 20, 2020 at Tim Stewart Funeral Home, 670 Tom Brewer Road, Loganville, GA 30052. 770-466-1544. Please sign the online guest registry at www.stewartfh.com

Cemetery Details

Corinth Memorial Gardens

1635 Hwy 81 SW
Loganville, GA 30052

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 20. 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Tim Stewart Funeral Home Loganville
670 Tom Brewer Road
Loganville, GA 30052

Funeral Service

JUN 20. 3:00 PM (ET)

Chapel of Tim Stewart Funeral Home Loganville
670 Tom Brewer Rd.
Loganville, GA

Tribute Wall



“ *Tim Stewart Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ray Childress*



Tim Stewart Funeral Home - June 20, 2020 at 10:32 AM

AN

Very beautiful tribute. I'm so sorry for your loss. May the wonderful memories provide you comfort during this difficult time.

Amy Nederhoff - June 20, 2020 at 11:57 AM



“ *Ray Childress*

October 08, 2022 at 11:31 AM

NC

“ *Eric, I am so sorry to hear of your father's passing. Praying for comfort and peace from our Heavenly Father. Necole*

necole carter - June 23, 2020 at 08:31 AM

WF

“ I first want to express my sympathies to the Childress family. My name is William Fain; I am probably someone you have never heard of, but I want you to know Ray had a tremendous impact on my life. Ray, Dennis, and Bill all took a risk and hired me for a sales job in Birmingham when I was very young. I have great memories of Ray and my time at Cobe, but the story I want to share actually took place in 2007 in the Atlanta airport, eleven years after I had left Cobe. Ray and I bumped into each other on the train and I asked for his advice about a new career opportunity I was considering. Ray took the time to listen, we walked together to his flight as I explained my opportunity and my thoughts. I can literally see him now as he spoke words of wisdom that truly impacted my decision and sent me on the path that I am still on today. That advice led to tremendous blessings for me and my family and for that I am extremely grateful. God has placed many outstanding leaders in my life and Ray was beyond a doubt one of the best! Ray will always hold a special place in my heart for the opportunities he provided for me and especially for the time he gave me that day in the Atlanta airport.

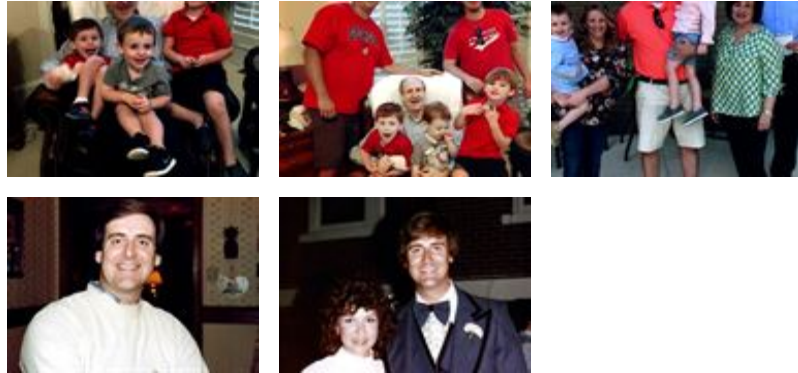
May God hold you close during this time and bring comfort knowing what a special person Ray was to many you may never meet.
Thank you for sharing him with us for all of these years!

God Bless!

William Fain - June 20, 2020 at 01:07 PM



“ 45 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Tim Stewart Funeral Home - June 20, 2020 at 10:31 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness* was purchased for the family of Ray Childress.



June 19, 2020 at 06:54 PM



“ *EMC Insurance Company Birmingham Branch* purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Ray Childress.



EMC Insurance Company Birmingham Branch - June 19, 2020 at 02:01 PM

MR

“ I had the opportunity to first work with Ray in Chicago in 1982 when he was a product manager for COBE Cardiovascular. Ray was a multifaceted individual including a strong intellect, great sense of humor, and an empathetic demeanor. Of course I had many more opportunities to interact with Ray over the course of the next thirty years and am a better person for having known him. I send my hopes for strength and acceptance for Beverly and the rest of Ray's family, and trust that Ray is in a Good place.

Mike Riordan - June 19, 2020 at 01:59 PM

DL

“ Although I never worked directly for Ray I always respected his perfusion knowledge. He was a very bright and funny guy as anyone who knew him already knows. He had the best combination of science and business acumen of anyone I knew. I remember sitting next to Ray at a meeting and he had me laughing so hard I had to leave the room. It is great to have such good memories. I send my sincerest condolences to the family.
May Ray Rest In Peace, Dave Latimer

Dave Latimer - June 19, 2020 at 01:08 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ray Childress.



June 19, 2020 at 12:43 PM

TL

“ *Childress family...
So sad to hear of Ray's passing, and very sorry for your loss.
Ray hired me in 1984 and was my manager for many, many years.
In addition to probably having the most knowledge of anyone in the
industry, Ray had the greatest wit and sense of humor, was caring
about his people, and he was someone I always looked up to. He
will truly be missed.
Rest in peace Ray, and God Bless!*

Tim Landwehr - June 19, 2020 at 11:57 AM

MR

“ *Mike Riordan purchased the Beautiful in Blue for
the family of Ray Childress.*



Mike Riordan - June 19, 2020 at 10:05 AM



“ *Adam Clark purchased the Beautiful in Blue for
the family of Ray Childress.*



Adam Clark - June 19, 2020 at 09:52 AM



“ *Childress Family, So sorry for your loss. I know Ray was a critical part of your Family. Ray had a major impact on my professional career and my families growth and happiness. Thanks to Ray hiring me in 2000 as the North and South Carolina Sorin sales rep, we had a wonderful career with Ray, & LivaNova! Ray was a very intelligent individual and always provided insight and entertainment at group functions and one on one discussions. He will be missed. Take care! Adam and the Clark's*

Adam Clark - June 19, 2020 at 09:49 AM

FC

“ *From Linda Cobb and David Claxton purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ray Childress.*



From Linda Cobb and David Claxton - June 19, 2020 at 06:48 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Ray Childress.*



June 18, 2020 at 11:04 PM

WP

“ I have known Ray for over 44 years. I hired Ray as a salesperson in 1976 for Cobe Cardiovascular here in Atlanta. Over the years he and I developed a close working relationship and true long standing friendship. He was the ultimate sales person and excellent manager. He was so good at sales that on a business trip together he was able to convince a teenage girl working at a small gas station in rural S.C. to drench me (his boss) with water when I came out of the restroom because it was so hot and I would appreciate the cool down. He was a true jokester. Carole and I extend our condolences to Beverly, Jeff, Eric and their families during these difficult days. Such a sad ending to a great life. He will be missed by many. Rest in Peace my friend.
Bill and Carole Pool

William Pool - June 18, 2020 at 09:12 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Ray Childress.



June 18, 2020 at 06:29 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ray Childress.



June 18, 2020 at 05:42 PM

MM

“ Beverly, Jeff and Eric, your dad took a chance and hired me 25 years ago to be one of his sales reps for COBE. Although I had some experience going into the job, it was your dad who taught me how to be successful selling technical products in a highly competitive market. He was detail oriented and expected me to be the same, he was creative, supportive, smart and a lot of fun to be around. The stories he would tell would have me in tears and I knew from other people that they were all true, no embellishments needed.

Ray was always very busy and getting one-on-one time with him was difficult. I finally came up with my strategy - bring him a Chick-Fil-A and Diet Coke for lunch and talk to him while he ate and smoked a cigarette on the "front porch of COBE South". I learned so much during those sessions and had a great time getting to know Ray as more than just my boss.

I looked forward to the times he would travel with me as we met with customers. They all loved seeing him and I wound up learning more by just observing him interact with all the various clinicians and administrators etc. than I could have from any training course or book on selling. Your dad's clinical knowledge was so vast that the majority of clinicians were convinced he was either a doctor or perfusionist.

Your dad had such a huge impact on so many people at COBE/Sorin as well as customers in the industry. He was widely considered as a "legendary" ...and he was.

Much of my success is due to him. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to work for him and know him. He will be missed.

Mat Martinides

Mat Martinides - June 18, 2020 at 05:38 PM

BB

So sorry to hear this. My prayers and thoughts are being sent your way. I got to know Ray during my 16 years at Emory. I left there in 1998 but still have fond memories of golfing with Ray. Or "Reload Ray" as we called him, he would hit a bad shot, pull another ball out and hit 350 down the center. Always enjoyed our kidding about football since he was a big Bulldog fan and I was a Buckeye. Again so sorry to hear this Ray touched many people during his life, a great guy
Bob Bolen

Bob Bolen - June 20, 2020 at 08:10 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Ray Childress.*



June 17, 2020 at 11:18 PM