



Mr. Joseph James "J.J." Ray Sr

February 21, 1934 - May 25, 2026

Memorial Service is forthcoming, please keep the Ray family in your prayers.

Tribute Wall

LS

“ Our deepest condolences to the Ray Family and our gratitude for you sharing such a dedicated and professional educator and community leader. We will continue to uplift you in our prayers. Kindest Regards, Dianne and Levi Scott, Eastman High School Class of 1978



Levi and Dianne Scott - June 04 at 06:56 PM

GJ

“ George Bracey Jr lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joseph James "J.J." Ray Sr



George Bracey Jr - June 03 at 08:29 PM

CS

“ Cecily Sene lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joseph James "J.J." Ray Sr



Cecily Sene - June 03 at 06:25 PM

LH

“ MY condolences to the family he was My
principle too R.I..P .J..J.RAY



Lisa Hedgepeth - May 30 at 12:48 AM

DM

Condolences to the Ray Family.

*Thank you Mr Ray for reminding every student who journeyed through
our school days with you as our Eastman High School Principal to
“Govern Yourselves Accordingly”.*

Respectfully,

*Students of Eastman High School
Freda (West) Macon - '1976' &
Donald Macon - '1972'*

Donald & Freda Macon - June 03 at 08:07 PM

JW

“ The following is for Rommey and all of those who Loved Principal J.J. Ray!

O death! why do you touch the tree beneath whose spreading branches weariness have rest? Why do you snatch away the excellent of the earth, in whom is all our delight? If you must use your axe, use it upon the trees which yield no fruit; you might be thanked then. But why will you fell the goodly cedars of Lebanon? O stay your axe, and spare the righteous. But no, it must not be; death strikes the best of our friends; the most generous, the most prayerful, the most holy, the most devoted must die. And why? It is through Jesus' prevailing prayer—"Father, I will that they also, whom you hast given me, be with me where I am." It is that which bears them on eagle's wings to heaven. Every time a believer mounts from this earth to paradise, it is an answer to Christ's prayer. A good old divine remarks, "Many times Jesus and his people pull against one another in prayer. You bend your knee in prayer and say 'Father, I will that your saints be with me where I am'; Christ says, 'Father, I will that they also, whom you have given me, be with me where I am.' " Thus the disciple is at cross-purposes with his Lord. The soul cannot be in both places: the beloved one cannot be with Christ and with you too. Now, which pleader shall win the day? If you had your choice; if the King should step from his throne, and say, "Here are two supplicants praying in opposition to one another, which shall be answered?" Oh! I am sure, though it were agony, you would start from your feet, and say, "Jesus, not my will, but yours be done." You would give up your prayer for your loved one's life, if you could realize the thoughts that Christ is praying in the opposite direction—"Father, I will that they also, whom you have given me, be with me where I am." Lord, you shall have them. By faith we let them go.

James E Whitaker - May 29 at 06:11 PM

BM

“ Condolences to family. Mr. Ray left lasting, positive impressions on all Eastman students.



Barbara A. (Myrick) Marshall - May 29 at 05:44 PM

WP

“ Sending condolences from Wiley Payton and Family.



Wiley Payton - May 29 at 05:34 PM

DL

“ So many fond memories of my friend and Principal, I was saddened to hear of his passing. I had a chance to see him again last fall with a surprise visit on his way to visit the new Eastman school site. I worked with Mr. Ray as his secretary at Eastman the years of 1971 and 1972 i enjoyed working for him, all I have is fond memories of our working relationship. He was very well respected by his students at Eastman and he will be missed dearly. My heartfelt condolences to the Ray family and to the Eastman Alumni in (Mr. J J Ray's voice) GOVERN YOURSELVES ACCORDINGLY. We love you Mr. Ray rest well my friend. 🙏🥹💔🙏 MISS PITTS.

Dorothy Lee - May 29 at 10:35 AM

MH

“ *The Lebanon AME Church Family was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Mr. Ray. His steadfast devotion to our Church Family was an inspiration to us all. We are so grateful for the years we had the privilege to know him. I will always remember his warm smile. Please know you are in our prayers during this difficult time. With Love and Prayers, Rev. Glenda G. Poindexter and the Lebanon AME Church Family.*

Mary Harvey - May 29 at 07:55 AM

EA

“ *Condolences to the family of Mr Ray classof 1978 'He was a great man and principal at Eastman High School . Schools now adays need more like him . May God give the family the comfort they need in a time of the loss of their love one .*

Exum Anstead - May 29 at 07:31 AM



“ *Goodbye to a long time friend. Peace and blessings to him always. Condolences to his wonderful family.*

George Dudley - May 29 at 01:03 AM

AS

“ Dear Rommie and Ray Family. We are sending our love and sincere heartfelt condolences and prayers. Our family can remember Mr. Ray as someone that showed friendliness to anyone that was in his presence and was truly an advocate for education. We will remember that a life lived with so much love, never really ends, but goes on forever in the heart of those who remember all the cherished and precious memories of our loved one and will remain with us always ...Today... Tomorrow ... Forever... “GOD is our refuge; and “our” strength...Psalm 46:1 & Revelation 21:3-4... With our Love and Prayers, Eastman High School Students and Co-Workers,
Alvin and Glendora and Silver Family



Alvin and Glendora Silver - May 28 at 11:52 PM

KG

I am so very sorry for your loss. One thing I know for sure, God heals the brokenhearted. Rest in peace our good friend and neighbor. 🙏



Karen Dudley Grissom - June 13 at 04:42 PM

SF

“ Condolences to the family of Mr. Joseph J. Ray on behalf of Eastman High School Class of 1980. The Class of 1980 honors the memory of our beloved Principal, Mr. JJ Ray. Mr Ray was a strong disciplinarian, but always pushed his students to greatness! When former students attended his 90th Birthday Celebration, I was in awe that he knew all his former students as we each took turns greeting and thanking him for the love and encouragement he showed us while in high school and post high school. He knew the names of his former students no matter what year we graduated. He was a special man that will be greatly missed. I am so thankful for the role he played in my life during high school as my principal. He made sure school was safe and he treated everyone fairly. He always pushed his students to work hard, study hard, and enjoy the success that came with being a hard worker, no matter what career path you chose. Rest in peace Mr. Ray. Heaven truly received a special angel when you showed up.



Shirley Pitchford Freeman - May 28 at 02:44 PM

LH

“ I will miss you dearly. Praying for his children. Much love to you all. You will soar with your heavenly wings. Rest in Peace!

Linette Hewlin - May 28 at 01:21 PM

CS

“ Cecily Sene lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joseph James "J.J." Ray Sr



Cecily Sene - May 28 at 08:29 AM

SS

“ Sending prayers to the Ray family that the Lord comforts your heart today. My deepest sympathy for your loss. Sharon M Saunders



Sharon M Saunders - May 28 at 08:07 AM

CS

“ Congleton Funeral Home and Staff wishes to express our sincere condolences on the passing of your love one. We light this candle in their memory.



Congleton Funeral Home and Staff - May 27 at 04:15 PM