



Mr. George Ray Houston

April 22, 1944 - October 17, 2023

Mr. George Ray Houston, 79, of Sylvester, died on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital.

The funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, October 20, 2023, at the First Baptist Church of Sylvester, interment will follow in the Hillcrest Cemetery. The Rev. Donnie Duncan and Rev. Bobby Joe Brown will officiate. Mr. Houston was born on April 22, 1944 in Sylvester, Georgia, to the late John Edward and Janey Lee "Lydia" Mims Houston. He had lived in Worth County all of his life and graduated from Worth County High School, where he was a member of the of the first Worth County High School Ram Band being awarded the John Philip Sousa Band Award, and also attended the University of Mississippi. Mr. Houston was the recipient of the Editor's Choice award for best poem "Irish Sunset" in the book anthology "Immortal Verses". His Poems have been published in magazines, book anthologies, newspapers, and eleven books or volumes of verse.

Mr. Houston was drafted into the United States Army in February of 1966 and was trained in the heavy field artillery and was stationed in Germany with the 2nd Battalion, 39th Heavy Field Artillery and the 3rd Infantry Marne Division. This led to him serving a career and later retiring from the United States Civil Service Commission.

Mr. Houston married Mrs. Virginia Johns "Ginger" Parker Houston on September 6, 1969 and were married for 47 years until her passing on March 30, 2016.

Mr. Houston was a charter member, officer, bugler, and poet laureate of The Yancey Independents Sons of Confederate Veterans in Worth County, a member of The First Baptist Church in Sylvester, and also a member of the Worth County Historical Society.

Survivors include his daughter, Kristy Maddox of Sylvester; grandchildren, Ashlee Nicole Busbin, Selena Busbin and William Coy "Will" Maddox Jr.; a special friend, Kay Mullis; and a host of nieces, nephews, and extended family.

The Confederate flag that draped Mr. Houston's casket was given to him by the late Charles Riner.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Houston was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia Parker "Ginger" Houston and also by his brothers, John Edward Houston, III and James William Houston.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, October 20, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Banks Funeral Home.

Pallbearers for the service include, Keith Houston, Ronnie Chapman, Jerry Etheredge, Rodney Hutchinson, Bo Slack, Jerry White and a honorary pallbearer, Ray Hathcock.

Please sign our online guest registry at www.banksfh.com.

Banks Funeral Home in Sylvester is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **19**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Banks Funeral Home
PO Box 550
210 N. Main Street
Sylvester, GA 31791
(229) 776-2055
banksfh@yahoo.com
<http://banks.funeralplan2.com/>

Funeral Service

OCT **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church
207 N. Isabella St.
Sylvester, GA 31791

Burial

OCT **20** (ET)

Hillcrest Cemetery
701 S. Isabella Street
Sylvester, GA 31791

Tribute Wall

CR

“ *Cindy Jones Roshto lit a candle in memory of Mr. George Ray Houston*



Cindy Jones Roshto - October 21, 2023 at 07:32 AM

JW

“ *John Wade lit a candle in memory of Mr. George Ray Houston*



John wade - October 20, 2023 at 04:44 AM

SW

“ *Sandra Watson lit a candle in memory of Mr. George Ray Houston*



Sandra Watson - October 19, 2023 at 10:24 PM

JC

“ *Ray has been our neighbor for 42 years. Always kind, and genuinely helpful. I will miss his wave as he drives by. Our love and prayers to his family. Jim and Jill Case*

Jim and Jill Case - October 19, 2023 at 08:45 PM

CY

“ Carol York lit a candle in memory of Mr. George Ray Houston



Carol York - October 19, 2023 at 09:10 AM

DK

“ Davis and I are saddened to say goodbye to Ray, our friend and classmate at WCHS ! We grew up In The best of times and had great teachers at FBC and WCHS! My days in the band with Ray were so much fun! Our music was none other than Superior! Growing up in the best neighborhood in Sylvester was pure joy! We walked to school , went home for lunch and made beautiful memories that we shall continue to cherish ! I am sure the heavenly choir is playing as Ray Houston entered his heavenly home ! Prayers for all who knew him and loved him as a father, grandfather, and friend ! We shall cherish the many “Moments to Remember” 🙏❤️🎺

Donna M King - October 19, 2023 at 08:19 AM

JC

“ Joe Carter lit a candle in memory of Mr. George Ray Houston



Joe Carter - October 18, 2023 at 07:46 PM

MH

“ *Mack And Mary Houston lit a candle in memory of Mr. George Ray Houston*



Mack and Mary Houston - October 18, 2023 at 06:57 PM

BG

“ *Kay and family,
Tommy and I were so sorry to hear about Ray.
I will always remember when Tommy, Charles, and I went by your house for Charles to give Ray a flag.
Charles thought a lot of Ray.
Prayers for you.
Tommy and Bobbie Jane Gay*

Bobbie Gay - October 18, 2023 at 06:33 PM

GE

Charles and I were so sorry to hear of Ray's passing. He and I were classmates and bandmates. He was always my good friend. Charles and Gwen Ellis

Gwen Raines Ellis - October 21, 2023 at 02:41 PM

SC

“ *I will miss seeing him in the barber shop. We always had the best conversations. He will be missed!*

Stacy Cherry - October 18, 2023 at 02:58 PM

SA

“ Stephanie L Aultman lit a candle in memory of Mr. George Ray Houston



Stephanie L aultman - October 18, 2023 at 02:57 PM



“ Pam O'Boyle Vernor lit a candle in memory of Mr. George Ray Houston



Pam O'Boyle Vernor - October 18, 2023 at 02:42 PM

CR

“ Carol Houston Rothwell lit a candle in memory of Mr. George Ray Houston



carol Houston Rothwell - October 18, 2023 at 02:33 PM



Memories of the sweetest brother in law ❤️ He will be missed by so many family and friends!

Carol Rothwell - October 18, 2023 at 02:45 PM

CR

Love you my brother ❤️🙏

Carol ROTHWELL - October 18, 2023 at 03:32 PM

KH

“ Ray was not only my Uncle, but a very dear friend as well. He will definitely be missed. Love you.

Keith Houston - October 18, 2023 at 02:29 PM

DF

“ So sorry to hear. Enjoyed working with Ray at Repair Division. Prayers for family. 🙏🙏

Don Ford - October 18, 2023 at 01:17 PM



“ Prayers for the family!



Diane McLeod - October 18, 2023 at 11:31 AM

BT

“ Ray, may your soul soar to Ginger. You will live in the hearts of your family forever.

Bonnie C Tenney - October 18, 2023 at 09:58 AM

RO

“ 11 files added to the album Ray Houston



Russ Ottens - October 18, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ Janice Carter lit a candle in memory of Mr. George Ray Houston



Janice Carter - October 18, 2023 at 09:02 AM

SR

“ Sharon Rhoads lit a candle in memory of Mr. George Ray Houston



Sharon Rhoads - October 17, 2023 at 02:58 PM

SR

Kristy, I am so sorry to hear your daddy has passed away. Know my thoughts and prayers are with you and the family.

Sharon Rhoads - October 17, 2023 at 02:59 PM

RH

Ray Houston was a hard working, honest person that will be sorely missed in our community!

Ray Humphrey - October 18, 2023 at 12:31 PM

JK

Ray was my friend for over 30 years. We met between 1988 and 1991, He attended Confederate Memorial services in Albany and was instrumental in forming the CSA Yancey Independents Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp (organization) in Sylvester in 1991. He and I were together at many CSA monthly meetings and memorial services in Albany and Sylvester. Ray was a true Confederate and American Patriot. He believed in the true meaning of the Confederate flag and the principles and values it represents "Limited Constitutional Federal Government, States Rights. Resistance to Tyranny, and Christian Values and Principles" and Southern Independence and Freedom which is what the South fought for against Northern Tyranny, Despotism, and Dictatorship.

Ray will be missed by family and friends and by Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) members at all future events.

James W. King-Former SCV Commander Albany GA. 2003 -2023

James W. King - October 18, 2023 at 08:15 PM