



## James Ray

April 15, 1931 - April 5, 2026

James Albert Ray, 94 of Bradenton Florida passed away on April 5, 2026. He was born to the late Ann Ray Casta and Glen Ray in Woodstock New York on April 15th, 1931. He joined the Air Force in 1951. He married the love of his life Jesse E. Ray on June 7th, 1952. They were happily married for 71 years before the Lord called his beloved wife home. James honorably served in the Air Force for twenty years. He completed two tours in Korea, one in Vietnam and one in Hawaii. He was granted many awards for his accomplishments in the Air Force. While the military life moved their family around, they chose to settle down in Jesse's hometown and make Manatee County their forever home. After he retired from the military James started building cabinets and eventually opened his own cabinet shop. James enjoyed woodworking, riding motorcycles, tending to a garden and photography. He was affectionally known as Honey, Jimmy, Daddy, Grandpa, Papa and Poppy. He was preceded in death by his parents, stepfather, sister Margret Lou Ross, son in law Earl Whigham and granddaughter Crystal Sands.

He is survived by his daughters and son in law; Janet Ray of Bradenton, Shirley Flinn (Mike) of Ruskin Fl, Sandra Whigham of Jesup Ga.; son and daughter in law James Eugene Ray (Sandra) of Bradenton; his grandchildren include Chris and Heather Ray, Josh and Bobbie Ray, Tommy and Bethany Lee, Candi and Jacob Pitts, Lee Sands, Joel Whigham and Carl Whigham. He also leaves behind 27 Great grandchildren and 3 great great grandchildren:

brother and sister-in-law Cully and Donna Rowell. All of whom he loved dearly.

Visitation will be Wednesday April 8th from 6-8pm at Toale Brothers Funeral Home.

Funeral Services will be held at the Chapel of Toale Brothers Funeral Home on Thursday April 9, 2026, at 9:30am.

He will be laid to rest at the Sarasota National Cemetery at 11:30am. With full military honors. Evangelist Jacob Pitts is officiating.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - Bradenton Chapel  
912 53rd Ave W  
Bradenton, FL 34207  
(941) 746-6191  
info@toalebrothers.com  
<https://www.toalebrothers.com/>

## Funeral Service

APR 9. 9:30 AM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - Bradenton Chapel  
912 53rd Ave W  
Bradenton, FL 34207  
(941) 746-6191  
info@toalebrothers.com  
<https://www.toalebrothers.com/>

## Interment

APR 9. 11:30 AM (ET)

Sarasota National Cemetery  
9810 State Rd 72  
Sarasota, FL 34241  
(941) 922-7200

# Tribute Wall



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



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April 08 at 09:31 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Ray.

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April 08 at 09:31 AM