



## Ray N. Church

May 29, 1940 - March 26, 2012

Big Stone Gap, VA

Ray N. Church, 71, went to his heavenly home on Monday (March 26, 2012) at Holston Valley Medical Center in Kingsport, TN.

He was born in the Olinger Community of Big Stone Gap, lived in Vero Beach, FL for over 20 years and had lived in Big Stone Gap since 1994. He was a minister for the gospel of Jesus Christ, having served as pastor of the First Church of God in Vero Beach, FL, and as an evangelist for many years. He was a U. S. Army Veteran of the Vietnam Era and was a member of the American Legion Post #243 in Norton, VA. Ray was the heart and soul of WLSD 1220 radio station in Big Stone Gap for 17 years.

He was preceded in death by his second wife, Nora Jean (Hilton) Church; his parents, James Willard Church and Fannie Inez (Pearson) Church; and a sister, Martha Davis.

Surviving are his first wife, Rita Paul of Vero Beach, FL; his son:, Ray Allen Church of Pennsylvania; four daughters, Darlene Nesbitt and husband, Steve, and Lisa Gonzalez and husband, Manace, all of Vero Beach, FL, Melinda Church and Geneva Church, of the home; his son, Ray Allen Church of Pennsylvania; six grandchildren, Van Allen, Crystal, Manace, Cory, Tamara

and Alyssa; five great grandchildren; two brothers, Bud Church of Fort Pierce, FL and Robert Pearson of North Carolina; and several nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday at Holding Funeral Home (17 E. 3rd St., N.) in Big Stone Gap, VA.

The funeral service will be conducted at 7 p.m. on Friday in the funeral home chapel with the Rev. Rick Phillips, Rev. Willie Stanley and Johnny Stidham officiating.

Military rites, by local V.F.W. and D.A.V. posts and the VA National Guard Honors Team, will be held on Saturday at 11 a.m. at Powell Valley Memorial Gardens. The family and friends will meet at the funeral home by 10:20 a.m. on Saturday to go in procession.

To view the obituary and sign the online registry, please visit [www.holdingfuneralhome.com](http://www.holdingfuneralhome.com).

Holding Funeral Home is honored to serve the Church family.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ray N. Church*

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October 07, 2023 at 10:50 AM



“ *Ray and Rita use to live next to me. That has been 40 years ago.*

*My Deepest Sympathy goes to all of Ray's Family. God Bless all of you.*

*Sincerely,  
Karen Meeks*

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**Karen Meeks** - December 10, 2013 at 08:12 AM



“ *My loving grandpa that you would love just as you met him is in heaven with our Lord Jesus Christ. He was a man that devoted his life to our Lord. As you met him the first words out of his mouth were "I love you", "Jesus loves you", I remember him saying that all the time. One of his favorite verses and one of mine is psalms 23. I love you grandpa and I will see you one day.*

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**Manace Gonzalez III** - December 10, 2013 at 08:12 AM

MI

“ I love you grandpa and now your with our father Jesus Christ. One day I will see you and we will be so happy together with no sorrow, crying,pain, and sadness. I promise you grandpa that your mission you had on earth for the Lord will be mine for the rest of my life. I remember like I just talked to him he would always say when you meet him or approached him the first thing out of his mouth would be, "I love you, Jesus loves you" and he would always say "I love you hunny". I miss you grandpa and will miss you until I see you again.

Manace Gonzalez III - December 10, 2013 at 08:12 AM

LC

“ He will be missed, God Bless and prayers with the family.

Leroy Bolling & David Church - December 10, 2013 at 08:12 AM

BC

“ I will sure miss him.  
Love him alot..Brother Bud

Bud Church - December 10, 2013 at 08:12 AM

DB

“ To darlene and rita i am so very sorry for your loss it is hard but with faith and knowing ray is with the lord that will help you cope.

David Barnum - December 10, 2013 at 08:12 AM

DM

“ RAY WAS A FINE CHRISTIAN MAN.HE ALWAYS HAD A SMILE FOR EVERY ONE. AND A GOOD WORD FROM THE LORD. WE SURE WILL MISS HIM. GOD BLESS ALL THE FAMILY. I WILL BE PRAYING FOR YOU.

DELORES MCMAHAN - December 10, 2013 at 08:12 AM

AB

“ Ray was a great man of God and his loss is Heaven's gain. Many time Ray would play our music on WLSR Radio and we had many great memories together. May God Bless his family...and yes, We'll meet again over on the other side.

Tony Burke  
The Singing Burkes  
Eagle Lake, Florida

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Anthony Burke - December 10, 2013 at 08:12 AM

LG

“ Happy Fathers day dad. I love and miss you soooooooooo much. You were the best dad ever. I wish you were here with me today to celebrate one of the most special days in the year. I know you are celebrating in heaven with our heavenly father. I hope your day is wonderful there. I know you love coffee. I hope they have some in heaven. Miss and love you more than words could say. Your loving daughter, Lisa

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lisa gonzalez - December 10, 2013 at 08:12 AM



“ One of both of our favorite verses was and still is psalms 23. We have a limited amount of time on this earth and we all need to devote our life to God, Jesus Christ just as my grandpa did!

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March 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM