



Joseph Ray Gatewood

August 4, 1934 - December 7, 2015

Joseph Ray Joe Ray Gatewood, 81, went to be with the Lord on December 7, 2015, surrounded by family and music at his home in Frankfort, KY.

Joe Ray was born to Albert Ray and Virginia Claxon Gatewood on August 4, 1934 in Frankfort, KY. He graduated from Frankfort High School and attended Transylvania University where he was a soloist with the traveling choir.

He married Anne Winfrey on August 28, 1954. He worked for the Kentucky Highway Department, retiring in 1988 and he also retired from the City of Frankfort. In addition, he was on call as a Command Sergeant Major in the US Army Reserve for 39 years. Joe Ray was a member of Hiram Lodge #4 FandAM. He was a life-long member of First Christian Church and after retirement he dedicated his remaining time to nurturing relationships as an elder and choir member at First Christian. He was involved in numerous charity events, and with his children and grandchildren's sports and musical events. He enjoyed his Saturday morning breakfasts with his men's group, and his monthly Cousins Lunch. He was very proud of his family and when they did well he would tell anyone who would listen - It's a Gatewood thing!

Music was a big part of his life. He sang in barbershop quartets and with the Capital Chorale. He also sang on tour in Europe with the Transylvania Choir well after becoming a senior citizen. He never met a stranger and was always

positive, even when faced with health challenges. He enjoyed teaching his Sunday school class from time to time, loved to learn and quote scripture, and loved to quiz family members on their knowledge of the Bible.

Joe Ray is survived by his wife of 61 years, Anne, and sister, Anita (Jack) Marston of Chicago, son David Michael (Heather) Gatewood, daughter Sarah Gatewood (Jim) Webb, and five grandchildren - Alden Gatewood, Adyson Gatewood, Asher Gatewood, Jimmy Webb and Joey Webb, as well as being the favorite relative of the rest of the family.

Visitation for Joe Ray will be Thursday, December 10, at First Christian Church in Frankfort from 5-8 pm. The funeral will be held at First Christian Church on Friday, December 11 at 2 pm. Burial with military honors will follow at Frankfort Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be David Gatewood, Alden Gatewood, Jim Webb, Andrew Winfrey, Brian Sweeney, and Steve Marston.

The family would appreciate expressions of sympathy in his memory to First Christian Church, 316 Ann Street, Frankfort, KY 40601 or Hospice of the Bluegrass, 663 Teton Trail, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home. Online condolences may be shared via the online guest book at www.harrodbrothers.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph Ray Gatewood*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *CSM Gatewood was one of the most uplifting and kindest soul I have ever met. I can not remember ever seeing him without a smile on his face and something good to say. A wonderful man and may he rest in peace. Prayers to his families. He will be sorely missed. We all loved you Joe Ray. You have a wonderful soul and I know you are singing in heaven with the angels right now. AMEN. Look forward to seeing you again.*

Willetta Bartley - December 11, 2015 at 03:10 AM



“ *One of the finest men I have ever known. I served many years in the Army Reserve with Joe. I considered Joe my mentor and very good friend. He was always there in the best of times and the worst. Rest easy my friend you have received your reward.*

Ricky Boggs 1SG (Ret) - December 10, 2015 at 04:41 PM



“ *If ever there was a "soldier" of Christ it was Joe Ray. I imagine all that knew and loved him were certainly blessed by his presence. He is singing with the choir of angels! My thoughts and prayers are with his family ~ God Bless!*

Anne Winn Vansant - December 10, 2015 at 02:07 PM

VM

“ Joe Ray was one of the finest men I've known. He was a good father, a good husband and a good friend. CSM(R) Gatewood was deeply patriotic and dedicated a large part of his life to the Army Reserve. He was a man of strong faith. It wasn't unusual to find him walking around the Reserve Center or sitting at his desk softly humming or singing a song or hymn. He touched so many lives. He always had a friendly smile and a caring nature even during adversity. Joe was a friend for life. I am sending thoughts, prayers and deepest condolences to the Gatewood family. He will be sorely missed.

Vicki Metts - December 10, 2015 at 12:39 PM

CG

“ Joe Ray, now you can talk to "Tom Thumb" himself! I know that you and daddy are having a big time already. I'm gonna miss you, but I know I'll see one day again.

Cheryl Gayhart - December 09, 2015 at 03:33 PM

LD

“ I had known Joe Ray since we were young men & I was employed by his parents. His dad & Joe Ray were two of the finest men I ever knew. You could not be sad or depressed around them! Neither ever met a stranger. Joe Ray contributed so much to the City of Frankfort & his Church. His beautiful voice will now be heard loud & clear in God's Heavenly Choir. My sincere condolences to his family.

Letcher Dempsey - December 09, 2015 at 02:54 PM

FP

“ We will miss Joe Ray's smile, his great sense of humor, and his beautiful voice. The heavenly choir just got a great addition. Our sympathy to the Gatewood family.

Steve and Fawn Pace

Frankfort, Ky.

Fawn Pace - December 08, 2015 at 05:07 PM