



Ray Melton

October 11, 1946 - January 4, 2018

Ray Melton, born October 11, 1946, died January 4, 2018, at St. Dominic Hospital in Jackson from a massive stroke. He died peacefully surrounded by his family.

Services will be held at Memory Chapel on Saturday, January 6th with visitation beginning at 10 a.m. and the funeral service at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at Boyles Chapel Cemetery in Wayne County. Officiating will be Bo Burroughs.

Ray was a former Powers Fire Chief and founding member of the all-volunteer fire department and also served the City of Laurel as a career firefighter. Ray was a man's man, a hero, an incredible firefighter, a paint and body shop legend, and a man who deeply loved his family, both blood and red. He was a mechanical genius and could build or fix anything including actually building Powers' first fire truck using a beverage truck chassis and a donated three compartment fuel tanker body.

Ray was preceded in death a son, Craig Melton.

He is survived by his wife, Frances Melton; daughter, Suzanne (Jerrod) Jones; four grandsons, Conner and Carter Melton, Grayson Knight, and Sawyer Jones; three sisters, Gloria (Carl) Craven, Bennie Rogers, and Sue Melton

McClain; brother, Jerry (Beth) Melton; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Ken Keyes, Gary Little, Gary Thornton, Bill Bustin, David Hayes, and Lance Chancellor. Honorary pallbearers will be Ronnie Bailey, Larry Smith, Ronnie Smith, and all firefighters, both volunteer and professional.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Powers Fire & Rescue at 1975 Hwy. 184, Laurel, MS 39443.

Please keep the entire Melton family in your prayers during this difficult day and those to come. Heaven's gain is certainly our loss. Ray's passing leaves a void in the Powers Community that will never be filled.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.memorychapellaurel.com.

Cemetery Details

Boyles Chapel Cemetery

2 Boyles Chapel Rd
Waynesboro, MS 39367

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 6. 10:00 AM (CT)

Memory Chapel Funeral Home
3100 Audubon Drive
P. O. Box 674
Laurel, MS 39440
(601) 428-5235
memorychapel@comcast.net
<https://www.memorychapellaurel.com/>

Service

JAN 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

BC

“ There has never been a better (BODY MAN) in Laurel and Jones County. He was always so kind and friendly when I would take my car out all banded up so upset.I knew he could make it like new. Frances and family my prayers are with you . Bobbie Cessna

Bobbie Cessna - January 25, 2018 at 09:40 PM

JE

“ Heartfelt condolences for you and your family, Frances.



Jan Ellzey - January 09, 2018 at 05:50 PM

JK

“ Our whole community will miss him. We are praying for you. Bro. Jimmy and Alane Knight

Jimmy Knight - January 06, 2018 at 12:52 PM

DR

“ Ray was my 1st cousin, his Mom (Evelyn) and mine (Sue) were sisters. I have many wonderful memories of Ray as we are the same age and as children and teenagers spent good times "running wild" in the country along with Jerry and cousin Danny Reid. Ray's obituary really describes him as I remember him. God Bless his family and comfort them in their great loss.

Chip and Gloria Reid

Dean Reid - January 06, 2018 at 11:50 AM

BS

“ I always felt that Ray and I had a special relationship. I cherished his friendship; he was one of those rare people who made no pretense about who he was. What you saw is who he was. I knew him as a man of integrity and he always had my deepest respect. He was a private person of few words, but also had a heart full of laughter and joy. He was a family man who loved all of his own deeply. The world is a lesser place because he is gone; I'll miss him. Francis, Carol and I will continue to pray for you and the family; may God bless and keep you.

Bob Scott - January 06, 2018 at 10:40 AM

VD

“ Mr. Ray was always a joy to talk to and it was a joy to see how much he enjoyed his grandsons. It was an honor to know him. You all will be in my prayers. He will be greatly missed but we will see him again one day. He is rejoicing with his Lord today. Virginia Dix

virginia dix - January 06, 2018 at 09:22 AM

BP

“ First of all I would like to offer condolences to the family. Ray was a great guy. We have known him for years because of enduro/hare scramble racing.

Fred always seemed to like him but to me he seemed just a bit stand offish. He would speak when he came to the sign up table and one time when we were leaving my parents we dropped by his house for Fred to pick up something regarding racing and he asked me the make/model of my vehicle. I never knew exactly how to approach him until one hot dusty Sunday in the middle of the Desoto Forest at the Tiger Creek Enduro. I can't remember if Fred was racing or not but me and the boys were spectating (eating other spectators dust more like it) and we happened up on Ray trying to run a very busy road crossing by himself. I stopped and asked if he needed some help and he took me up on it. Me and the boys piled out and they were so excited to help Mr. Ray. Shay was only about 3 and Sirius 5 at the time. They would get so excited when they heard a bike coming and start yelling, "here comes one!" I looked around and Shay was excited and scared at the same time so he was holding on for dear life to Ray's leg! From that day on whenever I saw him he was friendly and talkative. He even got the chance to do some body work on my vehicle a couple of times. Once when I was listening to Fred and not watching where I was backing up and hit a tree on the way to another Tiger Creek race. I just looked up Ray at the race and showed him my vehicle and he said bring it on over to my shop.

Ray will missed in the Powers community but also in the Southern Enduro Riders Association as well.

Ms Frances, Suzanne and family, Conner and Carter, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Brenda Pittman - January 05, 2018 at 11:59 PM