



## Jerald "Ray" Brannon

April 19, 1943 - December 18, 2011

Jerald "Ray" Brannon, age 68, died on December 18th, 2011. Ray was born on April 19, 1943 in Fort Worth, TX. He lived the majority of his life in Stafford, TX.

Our unforgettable Ray leaves behind his adoring wife Karyn Brannon, his children Stephen and Rachel Brannon, Kristi and Jim Nicholson, Mike and Leslie Willett, Doc and Andrea Mosher and Shelly Rexrode, sister and brother-in-law Jana and Robert Sparks, sister Judy Dickerson, sister-in-law Rachel Wells, cousin Jim DeShazo, nephews and nieces Jonah Horton, Jessica Hewitt, Christopher Wells, Sandy McAllister and Scott Dickerson, his grandchildren Justin and Parker Brannon, Dusty, Parker, Whitney, Jenna and Natalie Nicholson, Trey Entralgo, and Madelyn, Lauren and Alyssa Willett. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jerald Lee and Christi Brannon.

Ray was a man of great honor and superior character. He served his country with pride as a decorated veteran participating in two tours of duty in Vietnam winning two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. He was a Second Lieutenant Army Ranger and Green Beret in the Special Forces. For the majority of the conflict, he worked under General Westmoreland leading one of the general's sponsored Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP or "Lurp") units. Ray went to Carter Riverside High school in Fort Worth, TX. He was the football team manager. After high school he quickly found his affinity for drag racing. He started with a 1957 Chevrolet Coupe that was given to him as a gift from his grandmother. He improved the vehicle with as he always explained,

“42 coats of Candy Apple Red Lacquer paint that looked an inch thick and an engine that kept it off the streets, at least from a legal aspect. There were times when it had to be taken off the trailer to make certain points understood.” He set several track records at Green Valley Race Track near Fort Worth with this vehicle. He then moved on to drag racing with an ‘A gas’ dragster as it was called at the time. He raced against Eddie Hill and Don Garlitz in the early days. ‘A gas’ is now known as Top Fuel.

After Vietnam, Ray became a family man living for a short stint in Tulsa before moving to Houston, TX in the early 70’s. During this part of his life he was a fantastic father raising two children, Kristi and Stephen. He was tremendously influential in their lives and successes and was always vocally proud.

During this time he began hunting and fishing and met his lifelong and dearly loved friend, Freddy Knapp Jr. Ray, Freddy, and their many friends in the Houston West Bass Anglers enjoyed countless memories in the pursuit of the as he would say... “monkster bass”... any fish near or over 10 lbs. He was a great outdoorsman sporting the appropriate 80’s style moustache to match his joie de vivre and his near 80 mph racing bass boat (And yes, he had his name painted on the side like something he had back in his drag racing days). It was a gorgeous sight... seeing him race his Ranger bass boat across the lake in thirty degree weather with a 50 foot rooster tail trying to keep up with the ‘required’ Mercury engine roaring in the back.

Ray worked as the Sales and Operations Manager at Fogle Manufacturing for the better part of his life. He worked with his good friend and company owner, Buddy Fogle. They shared many lifetime memories on the job, fishing, and at their hunting lease.

As Ray completed his chapter of supporting his son through Harvard and seeing his daughter’s many successes, he got back into cars including a red 1981 Corvette for his son Stephen and a 1989 Midnight Blue 6-speed Corvette for himself. There were many days of washing, waxing, detailing and picture taking. “It had to be done and done right.” At this time he also bought a 27 foot Checkmate boat leading him back to the lake.

Ray enjoyed many years at Lake Conroe spending time and having fun with friends he cherished and loved. Bouncing around the docks of Del Lago to cruising around in the many house boats, he established a group of beloved friends that would shape the rest of his life.

Through this group of friends he got into another motor sport, but this time with only two wheels. Some people would say he got into motorcycles, but they would be wrong. He got into Harley Davidsons. He would astutely correct you if you got it wrong. He started with a fire orange Super Dyna Wide glide and moved on to other bikes including a monstrous Thunder Mountain from the Colorado division of Harley Davidson. His bikes doubled as mirrors because they were entirely coated with chrome. "It had to be done and done right."

Through the lake and his love for Harley Davidsons he was introduced to his wife Karyn. Ray and Karyn had a wonderful, loving marriage. They packed twenty years into seven and spent their time enjoying great friendships, riding their Harleys, spending time with their family, and travelling.

Ray will be forever in our hearts. He was a tremendous person with a personality encompassed by so much character, you couldn't help recognizing his magnitude and impact the moment you met him. He did everything with dignity and honor; teaching his children, family and friends to do likewise. Any other way was unacceptable. "It had to be done and done right." Our world will be much smaller without our wonderful Ray, but we know Heaven is a much larger place now.

A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at the VA Houston National Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Dr., Houston, TX 77038 at 1:30 PM on Friday, December 30, 2011.

<http://www.cem.va.gov/CEMs/nchp/houston.asp>

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Children's Miracle Network, TX - Texas Children's Hospital, in honor of Jerald "Ray" Brannon.

<https://donations.childrensmiraclenetworkhospitals.org/>

# Cemetery Details

## VA Houston National Cemetery

10410 Veterans Memorial Drive  
Houston, TX 77038-1502  
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/houston.asp>

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

DEC 30. 1:30 PM (CT)

VA Houston National Cemetery  
10410 Veterans Memorial Drive  
Houston, TX 77038-1502  
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/houston.asp>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Jerald "Ray" Brannon*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Jerald "Ray" Brannon*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Jerald "Ray" Brannon*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Jerald "Ray" Brannon*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM

 Shelley  
Brannon

“ Ray is my wonderful daddy. I didn't get to meet him until the week before I got married. Daddy and I became very close through my late teens and early twenties. I named my son after him, Brannan Chaz Henry Rexrode. I did not have benefit of Daddy's wisdom and love in the early part of my life, but we lost no time filling in the gaps. He was the most wonderful man I have ever known and I miss him horribly, everyday. I was crazy about Daddy, he absolutely hung the moon in my world. We spoke on the phone twice a week and I visited as much as possible. He was my rock! I'm so thankful that I take after Daddy so much. Growing up, I felt like I was an alien that had been dropped on Mom's door step. I wasn't anything like Mom or my two half brothers. When I met Daddy, I knew where I got all of characteristics and traits. My world stopped the day Daddy went to be with our Lord. John 3:16 had always been my favorite Bible verse...as it turned out it was Daddy's favorite too. I look forward to the day I will be reunited with my wonderful daddy!

Shelley Brannon

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Shelley Brannon - January 20, 2018 at 11:27 PM

JD

“ Ray and I grew up as kids and young men in Ft. Worth. He was my older cousin and we shared many adventures. He introduced me to racecars, the drags, waterskiing and many other activities as young guys! Ray and I were spending time together when his country came calling. I stayed as close to him as I could by writing him everyweek letting him know what was happening back in Ft. Worth. His mom Christi an I developed a friendship, as nephew and Aunt and began playing golf. Ray always felt that golf was a waist of time. His Mom and Dad were avid golfers and he could never understand the lure of the game. But when it came to things that went fast, he was always there.

*I remember when my Dad passed away, Ray showed up in a new Corvette. That was Ray. Anyone that knew Ray will never forget him. I will be at the top of that list.*

*God Bless and Keep him. Karyn, Please know how much he was loved by his family!*

*Jim DeShazo*

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**Jim DeShazo** - January 06, 2012 at 11:23 AM



“ I was truly blessed when Ray came into my life and brought me into his. We shared so many memories in the seven years we were together, every day was special. He made sure of that and I will miss him every day until I join him in heaven.

*Karyn Brannon*



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**Karyn Brannon** - January 05, 2012 at 10:13 PM

RW

*My Dear Ray, how you are missed. As your sister-in-law, you always cared for and loved me as so much more. Our laughs, our crazy weekends, not to mention the moments shared with you and my Sister. Thank you for loving her as you did, and still do, you will never leave her heart. The memories I replay daily will be cherished forever.*

*Rachel Wells, sister of Karyn Brannon*

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**Rachel Wells** - January 06, 2012 at 08:48 AM

RW

*My Dear Ray, again I sit here thinking of you and the irreplaceable memories you shared with me. We miss you. You would be proud of your wife, she's showing such great strength. Know that you are never forgotten and talked about (we keep it nice, promise!), daily! I can only pray that I go where you are!*

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**Rachel Wells** - February 09, 2012 at 03:46 PM

ST

“ *Jana Beth and the Brannon family,  
I remember Ray as your older brother. He seemed so much older to me back on Robinwood Dr., even though he really wasn't that much older than we were. I remember that he was always working on his car parked in the driveway, yet he always had time to say hello to us kids on our way to play ball in the alley behind your house. Reading his obituary made me realize what a full and happy life he led. He seemed to enjoy life to the fullest. My condolences go out to your and your family.*

*Sydney Delaune Turner*

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**Sydney Delaune Turner** - January 04, 2012 at 11:58 AM

CH

“Mr. Brannon” was always good to me through the years and had a giving spirit. I remember one summer when I didn’t have the funds to fix the AC in my 1968 California Special. He paid for that AC to get fixed and don’t think he even gave me a chance to pay him back, then there was that darn dog I had, well he took care of him while I was off at college, the list goes on.... All this “had to done”. One of the benefits of growing up with Stephen was his father who was always willing to help you out....and you didn’t have to ask.. .. he somehow always knew what you needed and as you guessed it “It had to be done”.

He was also very proud of Stephen and displayed this by shouting the legendary phrase during our track meets in school “Lets go Big Time”. The entire track meet could here this! This is something I admired in him but you don’t realize this until you’re a father. He always championed his son and seeing this growing up was a blessing for me as well.

Thank you “Mr. Brannon”

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Craig Hoffmeyer - December 30, 2011 at 09:37 AM

AJ

“ My favorite memory of Ray is Ray himself! He was a genuine and selfless man! He never turned anybody down when they needed help. He would give you the shirt off his back! You never had to worry about him covering your back, he was always there for you! i never saw him carry a grudge against anybody...you always got a second or third chance with him!

I will miss him!

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A.H. (Buddy) Fogle, Jr. - December 29, 2011 at 04:35 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Army Photo*



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**Dettling Funeral Home** - December 27, 2011 at 11:30 AM

LK

*If you did not know how to fix it-ask Ray-he did-RIP Ray-Your friend  
Larry*

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**larry knapp** - December 27, 2022 at 08:18 PM