



Mr. Richard F. "Dick" Bray

May 5, 1939 - November 16, 2019

Richard F. "Dick" Bray, 80, of Plant City, Florida, passed on Saturday, November 16, 2019. Born May 5, 1939 in Paris Tenn. to Rachel Spann Bray and Herman Graham Bray, both deceased. Preceded in death by first wife Dorothy "Dottie" Wiley Bray; siblings, Ralph Bray and Christine Bray Ray; and nephew, Roger Williams, all of Tennessee. He is survived by wife, Judy Struth Bray; daughter, Heather Bray of Tampa; neice, Cheryl Duck (Duck); and great nephews, John Dudenhofer (LeAnn) of Tennessee, and Chuck Struth (Brenda) of Plant City. A graduate of E. W. Grove high school, Paris Tenn. class of 1957, He held a Bachelor and Master Degree of music from Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky. After college he moved to Plant City in 1961 and taught music and band for 35 years in local schools, 25 of those at Turkey Creek Middle School. A faithful Christian, He was a member of First Baptist Church of Plant City, where he served the Lord playing his trumpet in the orchestra. He was also an active member of various musical groups throughout his lifetime in Florida. His love of music was lifelong, becoming a professional musician at the age of 16. He was a concert pianist and master vocalist in addition to his other talents. His professional playing career included stints with many notable singers, including Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, the Manhattan Rocketts, Bob Hope, Red Skelton, Nancy Wilson, Arthur Godfrey, Ringling Brothers Banum & Bailey Circus, The Lipizan Stallions Show, American Rodeo Inc., and Lassie, to name a few. He formerly played with big bands of Tom Lonardo, Jack Stalcup, Hal MacIntyre and Men of Note.

He played trumpet and other instruments in the Mellotones trio and the Blue Notes Orchestra of Tampa, for many years. Dick loved life and considered himself blessed by God. He devoted his life to his family and the care of his daughter. He enjoyed family gatherings, fishing, yard work, travel, nature and the wonders of God's creations. A funeral service will be held Thursday, November 21 at 11:00 A.M. at Hopewell Funeral Home, 6005 S County Road 39, Plant City, where the family will receive friends beginning at 10:00 A.M. Interment in Hopewell Memorial Gardens, Plant City. Memorial contributions may be made to First Baptist Church Plant City, fbcpc.com or 503 North Palmer St., Plant City, FL 33563. Expressions of condolence at HopewellFuneral.com.

Cemetery Details

Hopewell Memorial Gardens

6005 County Road 39 South
Plant City, FL 33567
(813) 737-3128
office@hopewellfuneral.com
<https://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home
6005 County Road 39 South
Plant City, FL 33567
(813) 737-3128
office@hopewellfuneral.com
<http://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

Funeral Service

NOV 21. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home
6005 County Road 39 South
Plant City, FL 33567
(813) 737-3128
office@hopewellfuneral.com
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Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Richard F. "Dick" Bray



Hopewell Funeral Home - November 20, 2019 at 01:20 PM

CA

“ Mr Bray was my band director for 3 years (7th-9th grade-Turkey Creek Jr High). He was a great inspiration. Don't know how I ended up with Band on my schedule, but glad I did. Thank you, for believing in us, when we didn't believe in ourselves.



Capathia - November 27, 2020 at 08:31 AM

EJ

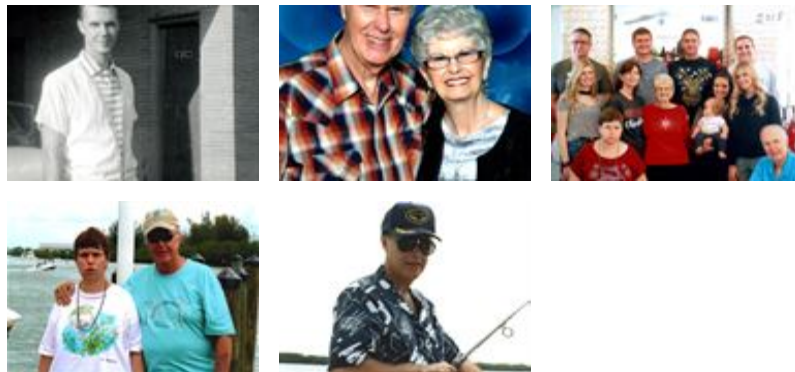
“ Edward Jones purchased the Simply Elegant Spa thiphyllum for the family of Mr. Richard F. "Dick" Bray.



Edward Jones - November 20, 2019 at 02:38 PM



“ 47 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Hopewell Funeral Home - November 20, 2019 at 01:18 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard F. "Dick" Bray.



November 20, 2019 at 10:25 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard F. "Dick" Bray.



November 20, 2019 at 09:25 AM

DL

“ Mr. Bray was a great band teacher. I learned how to play the flute and piccolo in the three years that I was in band at Turkey Creek Jr. High School beginning in 1982. I am sorry to hear of his passing. May the trumpet sound loud for Mr. Bray.

Dawn Lyle - November 19, 2019 at 09:11 PM

RM

“ Great memories of Jr. High band because of Mr. Bray. He was talented, patient, and wickedly funny. The world was a better place due to his contributions. Prayers for your family.

RJ Martin

RJ MARTIN - November 19, 2019 at 02:02 PM

BT

“ Goodbye my friend and thanks for the great music you and I made with the Mellotones. I shall miss your wonderful smile and sense of humor but most of all I'll miss your musicianship and that great sound you made with your horns

Bob Tanguay

Bob Tanguay - November 19, 2019 at 09:56 AM

TM

“ Dick was a fine musician and good man. I shared the trumpet section with him several years ago and most recently when I subbed in the Blue Notes. Always enjoyed his playing. He will be missed. Sincere condolences to the family.

Terri Molesky

Terri Molesky - November 19, 2019 at 08:56 AM

TH

“ He would actually come to Plant City and pick me up to play for the Gobblers. Great man. Basso Profundo. Prayers and praises going up

Theodore Hinson - November 19, 2019 at 07:46 AM

AS

“ Director of Bands Mr. Bray was the best. He made our Jr high times a lot easier by being our director. Music was his passion and we could all tell that by the way he taught us. Thoughts and prayers in
❤️❤️🎺🎺🎵🎵

Anita Smothers - November 19, 2019 at 07:07 AM



“ He was my favorite teacher. He taught me how to play the saxophone. My condolences to his family.

Lucy Saputo - November 18, 2019 at 11:20 PM

JV

“ He was a Great Band Instructor, loved music and had an ability to teach us how to play with so much patience and grace❤️ He will always be remembered 🎵

Jessica Vargas - November 18, 2019 at 09:55 PM

TM

“ Mr. Best talked my mom into letting me take band. He was a favorite teacher for my husband Mike and I. How wonderful to hear him laugh! He'll be playing right beside St. Peter when the trumpets sound!! - Tanya Middlebrooks.

Tanya Middlebrooks - November 18, 2019 at 09:23 PM



He was my favorite teacher. Years after I graduated he would recognize me. It was only a couple of years ago I saw him and he still remembered me. He was a great teacher.

Andrea Peacock - November 18, 2019 at 09:49 PM

KB

“ *Mr. Bray was my band director when I was at Turkey Creek. He loved what he did and you could tell. Heaven has gained an amazing musician. RIP Mr. Bray.*

Karla Black - November 18, 2019 at 06:54 PM

RB

“ *Condolences from Rodney Body*

Rodney Body - November 18, 2019 at 04:25 PM

JM

“ *Jason Mattair lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard F. "Dick" Bray*



Jason Mattair - November 18, 2019 at 02:35 PM

CR

I am deeply saddened to learn that Mr Bray has Passed, I first met him in about 1966 when he taught the Flute and the trumpet at Jackson Elementary School, for 3 years. In later years we would see each other and he would always remember me and call me by name. In later years after school I would see him in town he still remembered me, and always with a kind word and a hand shake. "Gone but He will never be forgotten".

Carl Rupp - December 11, 2019 at 12:16 PM