



## Raymond 'Ray' Vail Burkart Jr.

October 12, 1943 - January 22, 2019

Raymond Vail Burkart Junior passed away on January 22, 2019 at the age of 75. He fought a courageous battle with cancer. He was affectionally known as Poppie by his family. To say he was a loving husband, father, son, brother and friend was an understatement. He was born in Westwego, LA on October 12, 1943 to Raymond Vail Burkart Sr and Ella Mae Yokum at an unbelievable 13 pounds (he loved to brag about this).

He was raised in Westwego LA where he enjoyed playing baseball and ping pong. His mother lovingly called him the "Ping Pong champion of the West bank". After high school he attended LSU and Graduated in 1965 when he earned his Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. Not long before graduating he met the love of his life Sue Shelton and shortly thereafter they married. They were married for 54 years. She was the apple of his eye and he treated her as a queen.

Ray had an engineering heart. He was not only an engineer by trade but an engineer in life. He excelled in doing the best he could with limited resources. He put this talent to use numerous times helping and serving others.

He loved to laugh, he loved dogs and his garden. He had an incredible devotion to serving others. He lived by the motto that charity is the pure love of Christ. He exemplified this principle by the joy he got from unselfishly serving others.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints, he served in many callings, including President of the Denham Springs Stake from 2007-

2015. As with everything he did in life, he devoted himself completely to this calling and felt a duty to his God to fulfill this calling to best of his abilities. He had an infectious love for all those he served.

Most of all he loved his family more than life itself. He had a special ability to make each one of his family members feel like they were unique and special to him.

He is survived by his loving wife Sharon Sue Shelton, three children Becky Rae Hoyt (Jason), Timothy Shelton Burkart (DeAnn) and Jill Susan Rayborn (Skipper). His brother Barry Burkart (Michelle), 9 grandchildren Aimee Strickland (Will), Hunter Hoyt, Kelsey Romito (Brandon), Katelynn Burkart, Zachary Burkart (Kenzie), Tyler Burkart, Dallin Burkart, Kamron Rayborn and Reid Rayborn. 6 great grandchildren Belle, Callee, Brady, Charlee, Trey and Houston

He had a favorite hymn that he loved to have everyone sing at the conclusion of every church meeting. This was an example of how much he cared and labored over the well-being of his family and friends. The hymn included the words "God be with you till we meet again; By his counsels guide, uphold you; With his sheep securely fold you. When life's perils thick confound you, Put his arms unfailing round you.. Keep love's banner floating o'er you; Smite death's threat'ning wave before you. Till we meet at Jesus' feet, God be with you till we meet again".

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the visitation from the chapel of Brandon G. Thompson, Hammond, on Saturday, January 26, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. until the funeral service at 2:00 p.m. Bishop Max Weathers will officiate, and interment will follow in Stafford Cemetery #1 in Holden.

# Cemetery Details

## Stafford Cemetery

Stafford Cemetery Rd.  
Holden, LA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 26. 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home - Hammond, LA  
12012 Highway 190 W  
Hammond, LA 70401  
(225) 567-1884

## Funeral Service

JAN 26. 2:00 PM (CT)

Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home - Hammond, LA  
12012 Highway 190 W  
Hammond, LA 70401  
(225) 567-1884

# Tribute Wall

BR

“ I never got to know him as much as I wanted to. When he passed i was only 5 ,but by mom always told me he was the most funny person she new. I remember helping him in the shopfarm. He taught my mom everything know she nows about remodeling and building. She now has a YouTube channel ,and remodels are house. I know he is in heave now. Probily teaching other like he did to me.

- Brady Romito

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**Brady** - January 27 at 10:06 AM

OL

“ Ryan and I are so sad to see such a great man leave this Earth. He's such an angle and we were heartbroken to learn of his passing. We enjoyed the times we had spent with, especially my husband. We send our love and comfort to Sue and the family. <3



-Love Ryan and Olivia Lee

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**Olivia Lee** - January 26, 2019 at 11:36 AM

SB

“ So sorry I will not be able to be with you today. Ray was truly a follower of The Lord. Never saw him that he didn't have a kind word of encouragement to offer. He truly loved his family and was interested in each and everyone of them. He will truly be missed by all who loved him and knew him. Sue, I will get with you later.  
Love,  
Sherry R. Burleigh

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**sherry R. Burleigh** - January 26, 2019 at 09:02 AM

CF

“ *Mr. Ray was absolutely the kindest man who never met a stranger. He made everyone feel special. God took another wonderful soul to join the greatest in Heaven.*



**Chip Norman and family** - January 25, 2019 at 08:47 AM

BF

“ *Ben & Joyce Decker, Teresa, Pam & Kurt & families purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Raymond 'Ray' Vail Burkart Jr..*



**Ben & Joyce Decker, Teresa, Pam & Kurt & families** - January 24, 2019 at 10:50 PM

LF

“ *Love From the Petrin Family purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Raymond 'Ray' Vail Burkart Jr..*



**Love From the Petrin Family** - January 24, 2019 at 04:49 PM

KS

“ *Mr. Ray was a great man. He was a kind man. He loved his family endlessly and always treated me with kindness and respect. The world is a lesser place without him.*

**kent saxon** - January 24, 2019 at 02:33 PM

GH

“ *Burkart Family,*

*I'm so sorry for the loss of Mr. Ray, he was a good man and will be missed by his family, friends, and community. I never remember being around Mr. Ray when he didn't have a gentle and kind spirit. As Christians we are to be becoming more like Christ, I think Mr. Ray demonstrated a posture and attitude of Christlikeness, the world needs more men like this as we see the day of The Lord approaching. I also know this, that other than our own father, he helped and shaped my brother's life more than any other man, I'm thankful for that. He was a servant, and now he's resting in the arms of his Savior.*

*God Bless & Keep You*

*Gene Hoyt Jr.*

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**Gene Hoyt** - January 24, 2019 at 11:09 AM

DM

“ *Miss Sue, Beckie, Tim and Jill,*

*I'm sorry to hear of Mr. Ray's passing. All of you meant so much to me growing up. I can't help but smile when I think back to time spent together and the influence your family had on me. All of you are in my thoughts and prayers...*

*David Murphy*

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**David Murphy** - January 24, 2019 at 09:45 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Raymond 'Ray' Vail Burkart Jr..*



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January 23, 2019 at 09:26 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Raymond 'Ray' Vail Burkart Jr..*



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January 23, 2019 at 03:08 PM