



## Ray McKinley Adkins II

December 5, 1961 - September 27, 2021

Ray McKinley Adkins, II, passed away Monday, September 27, at Cabell Huntington Hospital following a long, private battle with cancer. He was born December 5, 1961, in Oak Hill, WV, to the late Ray and Irene Adkins. He spent his adult life in Huntington after falling in love with Marshall University and finding the true love of his life there, his wife of 35 years, Carrie (Patterson) Adkins.

Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by his sister, Renee Green (Tony), and father and mother in law, Roy and Donna Patterson.

In addition to his beloved wife, he is survived by his two dear children, Brian Adkins (Amanda) of Dallas, TX, and Eden Mays (Daniel) of Lebanon, OH, as well as three grandchildren and one on the way, Benjamin Adkins, and Ellis, Margaret, and Rex Mays, who were the light of his life. He also leaves behind a sister who loved him as her own son, Laura Romanowski Talbert (Ted) of Huntington, as well as sisters in law, Cynthia Lewis (Bill) of Princeton, and Cathy Snodgrass of Charleston. Also surviving are numerous nieces and nephews and their children, all of whom he cherished in a special way. His passing is also grieved by the many close friends he kept from childhood, his fraternity, career, golf league, church community, neighborhood, and every aspect of his life.

Ray retired in 2019 from his career in tobacco industry sales, after more than 25 years with U.S. Tobacco, and several more spent working for a local distributor, and most recently, Xcaliber International. His work was a point of pride for him, and he amassed so many dear friends and colleagues throughout his territory, which took him across the state of West Virginia and into Eastern Kentucky and parts of Southern Ohio. His time away from work and his retirement were filled with the many people and things that he loved. He was a passionate Marshall football and basketball fan, golfer, runner, outdoorsman, and family man. It's hard to say where he was his happiest, but some good guesses could be on the golf course with buddies, hosting "garage parties" with music and cornhole, Homecoming weekends at Marshall, or alongside his wife playing with his grandchildren. The quiltwork of Ray's life was a masterpiece - layered with, and colored by, memories of his early years being raised by his grandmother in a farmhouse, playing sports and running track, working at Babcock State Park, proudly going to five proms his senior year of high school, training as a river guide, dabbling in boxing, joining the Catholic Church, playing Spades at Sunday dinners, serving as a Scout leader, spending vacations at Myrtle Beach, taking walks on the river trail at Barboursville Park with his wife, maintaining his lawn and vegetable garden, and holding his grandbabies on his lap. While to a stranger he may have seemed a simple and ordinary man, he was extraordinary in the eyes of everyone who knew him...and he never did meet a stranger.

The family would like to thank Dr. Kathy Saber for the special care she provided to Ray always and for her lifelong friendship. Family and friends are invited to gather at Henson & Kitchen Mortuary, 6357 E. Pea Ridge Road, Huntington, WV 25705 for visitation Thursday, September 30 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. A funeral mass will be held at St. Stephen's Catholic Church, Ona, WV on Friday, October 1 at 10:00 AM, followed by graveside services, and a meal at the church. Online condolences and memories may be shared with the family by visiting [www.hensonandkitchen.com](http://www.hensonandkitchen.com)



# Previous Events

## Visitation - Following COVID-19 Guidelines

SEP **30**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Henson and Kitchen Mortuary and Cremation Services  
1592 East Pea Ridge Road  
Huntington, WV 25705  
(304) 736-8986  
fredkitchen@hensonmortuary.com  
<https://www.hensonandkitchen.com>

## Funeral Mass- Following COVID-19 Guidelines

OCT **1**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Stephen's Catholic Church  
2491 James River Turnpike  
Ona, WV 25545

# Tribute Wall



“ *Henson & Kitchen Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Ray McKinley Adkins II*



**Henson and Kitchen Mortuary and Cremation Services** - September 30, 2021 at 10:21 AM

KH

*We were very sadden to hear of Ray's passing. My husband and I were very close friends with Evonne back in high school. Ray McKinley was just a little guy back then. Some of the pictures in the video took me down memory lane. May God comfort you at this time. Larry and Kathy Hypes, Mary Sue Lane*

**Kathy Hypes** - September 30, 2021 at 04:22 PM



“ *Ray McKinley Adkins II*

October 23, 2023 at 01:49 AM



“ *Starbucks Coffee Condolences was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.*



October 02, 2021 at 10:28 AM

AM

“ We were saddened to hear of Ray's passing. We were great friends and neighbors on Roberto Dr. Ray was a wonderful person and a great father to his children and a loving husband to his lovely wife Carrie. He was a hard worker and had great work ethics and took pride in his work. He was an ardent Marshall supporter. This man is surely with our Lord Jesus and will enjoy the fruits of heaven. Our regards to his wife Carrie. Margaret and I loved you both and enjoyed great company as neighbors on Roberto Dr. May the Lord be with you during this trying time, but be assured that Ray is in good hands and sharing his great personality.

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**alexander Y& margaret mondlak** - October 01, 2021 at 10:52 AM

LW

“ I attended head start through 6th grade with Ray. My mom dearly loved Ray's mom and I remember visiting them in their home before Ray's mom passed. I am so saddened to learn of his passing but the pictures tell a story of a blessed life with lots of love, family, and friends.

Ray was so well liked by everyone at Danese Elementary. He had a joyous spirit and often entertained the students and teachers. He was well behaved but had a little imp in him too. I could tell a couple of stories on him. I remember my mom sending a pill to school with me to take for the croup. This is about 2nd grade. Ray loudly announced to the whole room...“That stinks”. LOL

My thoughts and prayers to each of you at this difficult time. Praying God blankets you with comfort and peace.

*Lisa Rice Whiting*

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**Lisa Rice Whiting** - October 01, 2021 at 10:16 AM

RE

“ We are sorry to hear of Ray’s passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Adkins family during this time.

Ray and Eva Ellis - October 01, 2021 at 12:49 AM

SA

“ Today I was saddened to learn from one of my accounts that Ray had passed away. I met Ray in 2009 when I started for then PM USA and he was with USSTC. Ray was just a tremendous person. Over the years when he worked as a wholesale rep he serviced many of my accounts. Ray took great care of his accounts and was a tremendous sales rep. And it was not uncommon for my accounts to ask about Ray and if I had seen him recently when he was still working. We talked about our shared love of Marshall University. Ray was just a joy to be around and he shared many stories with me over the years. My sincere condolences to his family.

Sami Abbas - September 30, 2021 at 11:59 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



September 30, 2021 at 06:20 PM

DM

“ So sorry for your loss. Ray and I spent many days watching Marshall football in Huntington and on the road. Working together at Goldsmit Sydnor and he was truly a great guy. He will be missed by all that knew him. Dan McCallister.

Dan McCallister - September 30, 2021 at 04:40 PM

CK

“ We were neighbors for a short time, but I came across you and Ray many times walking in Barboursville Park. What a beautiful tribute video of Ray. I am so sorry Carrie. May the Lord comfort you, Carrie, and all your children, and may you find peace knowing you will see Ray again.

Love and prayers,  
Cindy Kirk

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**Cindy Kirk** - September 30, 2021 at 12:46 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



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September 30, 2021 at 11:46 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



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September 30, 2021 at 11:44 AM

LT

“ Leticia Hunnicutt TEESA purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.

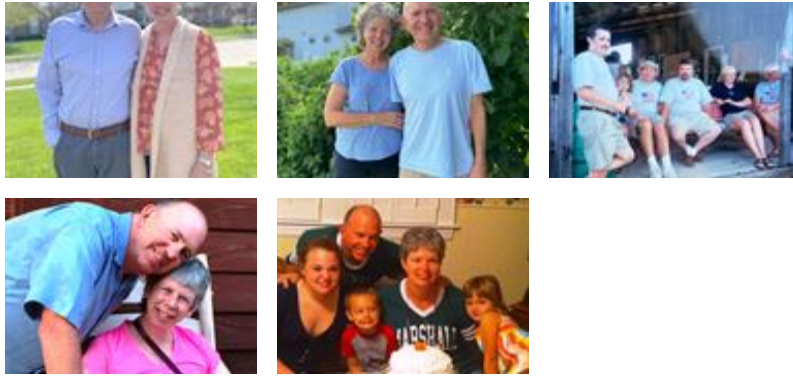


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**Leticia Hunnicutt TEESA** - September 30, 2021 at 10:44 AM



“ 95 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Henson and Kitchen Mortuary and Cremation Services** - September 30, 2021 at 10:17 AM

HC

“ *His Marshall Tailgate Crew purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.*



**His Marshall Tailgate Crew** - September 30, 2021 at 09:55 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.*



September 30, 2021 at 08:56 AM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



September 29, 2021 at 10:19 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



September 29, 2021 at 09:23 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



September 29, 2021 at 08:16 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



September 29, 2021 at 07:51 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



September 29, 2021 at 06:42 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



September 29, 2021 at 06:01 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



September 29, 2021 at 05:55 PM



“ Sheila and Jack purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



**Sheila and Jack** - September 29, 2021 at 05:49 PM



“ Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



September 29, 2021 at 03:50 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



September 29, 2021 at 03:37 PM



“ “You Are Loved And In Our Prayers” Comfort Throw was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



September 29, 2021 at 02:55 PM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



September 29, 2021 at 02:50 PM

VC

“ Vincent Carter purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



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Vincent Carter - September 29, 2021 at 01:42 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



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September 29, 2021 at 01:39 PM



“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



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September 29, 2021 at 01:36 PM

VC

“With heartfelt sympathy and caring prayers for Ray’s family first and foremost I would like to offer my memories of one of the finest people I have ever had the privilege to call my friend.

*When we opened The Double Dribble, now almost 40 years ago I met Ray since he was a Pike like me, it was instant friendship. Not only was Ray a Pike “brother” we had both fought in the Golden Gloves at different times.*

*Ray helped me immensely filling in behind the bar, working the door, advertising, cleaning, you name it Ray was willing to help. I trusted Ray more than any employee we had, he was always on time, polite, friendly and just a joy to be around.*

*Years later when we started going to Saint Stephens Catholic Church the very first person who greeted me was my buddy Ray. As always he wanted to help us get acquainted with everyone and insure we were comfortable, etc.*

*If I had a son I could only hope he would be half the man Ray was and posses some of his characteristics like, honesty, integrity, kindness, polite, always thinking of others, he defined the meaning of “salt of the earth”!*

*I know God is with you to comfort you and surround you with his love because that’s what he does for people like Ray!*

*May your faith guide you and help you find your strength and may all the warm memories live within your heart.*

*Sincere sympathy  
Vince Carter*

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**Vince Carter** - September 29, 2021 at 01:34 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.*



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September 29, 2021 at 01:27 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.*



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September 29, 2021 at 01:24 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.*



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September 29, 2021 at 01:22 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.*



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September 29, 2021 at 01:16 PM

VF

“ Vermont Neff and family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



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Vermont Neff and family - September 29, 2021 at 12:47 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



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September 29, 2021 at 11:51 AM

LK

“ Love- Claire & Kaileigh purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



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Love- Claire & Kaileigh - September 29, 2021 at 11:20 AM

CB

“ I only knew Ray for a short period of time while I was at Marshall, but the obituary is right, Ray never met a stranger. His warm and welcoming smile, along with a "How ya doing Miss Cindy?" memories are treasured.  
I send my heartfelt condolences to his family. I know his loss will be felt far and wide.  
Cindy Fedczak Boggs

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Cindy Boggs - September 29, 2021 at 10:15 AM

RL

*Ray and I were good friends in high school and later I also went to Marshall. He greeted me with a big smile and laugh, introduced me to people, and made sure I felt welcome. I saw him often for a few years. While we did lose touch, I always knew that if we saw each other again, it would feel as if only a day had passed. He was the kind of person you felt fortunate to call friend. Rest easy Ray.*  
*Robin Skaggs Looney*

Robin Skaggs Looney - September 29, 2021 at 06:23 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.*



September 29, 2021 at 10:02 AM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.*



September 29, 2021 at 09:38 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.*



September 29, 2021 at 09:17 AM

PS

“ Patricia Sydnor lit a candle in memory of Ray McKinley Adkins II



Patricia Sydnor - September 29, 2021 at 08:40 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



September 29, 2021 at 08:36 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



September 29, 2021 at 04:56 AM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.



September 29, 2021 at 12:26 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.*



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September 28, 2021 at 11:15 PM



“ *I was blessed to be his cousin and get to be part of his family. He and his family always stood together and never turned his back on anyone. I've got lots of memories of him at Babcock and the reunions. I am so sorry to hear of his passing. When he worked at Babcock he showed me how to get the fire going in the cabin(which we were at in July-very hot as it was) and I couldn't let the fire go because he helped me get it going. Which I kept it going for 3 days which made the cabin almost 100 degrees non stop. My Mom finally made him tell me it was ok to put it out, since we had to go to the reunion anyways. And he promised if I wanted to restart it he would help me. My Mom & Dad wouldn't allow me to start it again because it was too hot. So he took me to see the gristmill and walk by the water. Love and will miss you greatly!!!*

*The picture is from a family reunion a long time ago which he crushed me at playing a game of horseshoes.*



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**Aaron Adkins** - September 28, 2021 at 10:02 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.*



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September 28, 2021 at 08:29 PM



“ *I worked with Ray over the years in the tobacco industry. He was a fine man and always a joy to be around and work with. He will be greatly missed. Rest In Peace my friend.*

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**Todd Brown** - September 28, 2021 at 07:57 PM



“ *Condolence Snacks was purchased for the family of Ray McKinley Adkins II.*



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September 28, 2021 at 02:19 PM



“ I really hated to hear about Ray.. I am so sorry for your loss Brian, Edie, and Carrie. Ray was so much joy to everyone he knew. I have a lot of great memories of Ray, and this is by far my favorite that I would like to share. When Brian and I were in Scouts, there were several of us that were real close - close with eachother as kids and close with our dads who were always so supportive of whatever we wanted to do, like the weeks we spent our scout meetings watching Monty Python and the Holy Grail instead of doing something.. you know... Scoutly. We would go on hiking and camping trips all the time. Usually the hikes were 5 or 10 miles but one year the Kanawha Trace was having its anniversary hike. Several hundred people came out to hike the trail. We had done a few shorter hikes on the trail and spent a lot of time looking at maps and learning the route. We got together as a troop and decided we were going to try to do the whole thing, all 32 miles. We planned an overnight hike where we would do 20 miles on Saturday and finish the remaining 12 on Sunday just to say we did it. The 20mile hike was needed to complete one of the hardest merit badges in scouts - the Hiking merit badge. We had been training for this. We must have started right after sunrise because we barely finished the first day before the sun went down. We carried just about everything we needed and boy it was hot and heavy on those steep trails. At the beginning of the hike we were surrounded by eachother and other hikers, having a great time and talking as we put one foot in front of the other. Time flew by. The more we hiked, the less people we would see, the conversation topics turned from light-hearted banter to "are we sure this was a good idea???" We lost people along the way.. scouts and dads alike. It was a truly tough hike, the longest we had ever gone. On Saturday night we crashed hard in the old Blackjack schoolhouse. Oh the blisters... the many many blisters. We lost one or two more guys the next morning and then it was down to just our scoutmaster Chris Carson, myself, and Ray. Now Chris and Ray could have easily just called it off right then after the carnage we left behind but instead, Ray and Chris looked at me, boots laced up and pack on their backs, when Ray said "You ready to go?" with the biggest smile on his face. I was. I had just gone the

*furthest I had ever gone and I was ready to see this through. I had the best company a kid could ask for. We marched on for what felt like all day. We didn't talk much with our mouths but our feet had plenty to say. We finally reached the finish at the Kanawha River and had to wait another excruciating hour to be picked up. In the following weeks and months Ray never let me forget that we finished that entire trail. He reminded me every time I saw him. I can't describe what kind of confidence that instills in a young man when you tackle hard things lie that, and I truly could not have done that without Ray being there with that big smile of his. I'm going to miss you Ray.*

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**Josh Keck** - September 27, 2021 at 10:27 PM



*Well said Josh...on all accounts.*  
*Dave*

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**Dave Lunsford** - September 28, 2021 at 08:52 PM