



H. Rhea Gray

December 31, 1930 - June 17, 2014

H. Rhea Gray 83, of Bonita Springs died Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at Joanne's House at Hope Hospice. Rhea began wintering in Bonita Springs in 1988 and moved permanently here in 1995, coming from Chicago, IL. He was born December 31, 1930 in Memphis, TN a son of the late Harvey and Jessie Jane (née Anderson) Gray, Sr.

During his childhood, his family moved around often since his father was a traveling minister. They eventually settled in Chattanooga, TN where Rhea graduated from Central High School. He attended Baylor University where he received his B.A. degree. He then went on to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary earning his Ph.D. in Pastoral Counseling. His post-doctoral studies in Counseling Psychology and Business Management were done at the University of Texas and the Harvard Graduate School of Business. He later received his 2nd Ph.D. from the McCormick Theological Seminary in Organizational Behavior and Development.

He was an ordained Baptist Minister serving as Pastor at the Lynn Acres Baptist Church in Louisville, KY and the Lake Shore Baptist Church in Waco, TX. From 1968 through 1978 he had his own private practice of Psychotherapy in Palatine, IL, and from 1975 through 1995 he owned H.R.G. Associates, a management and organizational development consultant business in Chicago, IL. After moving to Bonita Springs he served as the

Director for the Center for Pastoral Counseling and Psychotherapy at the Community Congregational Church in Naples.

He loved golf and was a Chicago Bears, Chicago Cubs and Baylor Bears fan. An avid writer, he would often write articles that he called "Reflections" about current events or issues and email them to his family and friends. He was a loving father who was very involved with his children's lives. But most of all he spent his life helping other people. He always saw the good in people and cared passionately for the poor and oppressed.

He is survived by his loving wife of 29 years, Sharon R. Gray of Bonita Springs; two daughters, Bevan Dee (Stuart) Rogel of Tampa, FL and Dara Jane Gray of Austin, TX; two step-children, David (Gina) Narey of Chicago, IL and John Poole of Minneapolis, MN; 1 grandchild; 7 step-grandchildren and 1 step great grandson.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Harvey Gray, Jr.

A service to celebrate his life will be held in the fall and will be announced.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions in his name be made to: H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center Foundation, P.O. Box 23827, Tampa, FL 33623.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ *H. Rhea Gray*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *Dr. Gray was an amazing man of God. He was our Best Man at our Wedding in 1994. He also did so much for my ex husband. So patient and kind. He was a very special man. Thank you, Sharon for sharing him with us. So sorry to hear this but comforted to know is is at peace in Heaven.*

Annie Kunkel Kraft

Annie Kunkel Kraft - September 10, 2014 at 01:01 PM



“ *Rhea Gray performed out wedding ceremony July 25, 1954 (60 years ago tomorrow) at Lynn Acres Baptist Church in Louisville. We provided the sheet music for his very pregnant wife to play Claire de Lune. If memory serves, we were either his first or second wedding. I just happened to look for him on the internet as I was thinking about our anniversary and am so sorry I didn't check sooner so he could know that this marriage has been a great one...and he got it started. So sorry for your loss.*

Kay White (Mrs Don White)

Kay White - July 23, 2014 at 08:18 PM

GR

“ To the family and friends of Rhea Gray,

Rhea and I became good friends when we began working together at the W. Clement and Jessie V. Stone Foundation. Rhea was a very special person who was known for taking risks on people who had a vision as to how the world could be made a better place. From the training of pastors in poor churches across the southern United States, to scholarships for a wide variety of students, he was willing to take risks that enabled many young people to pull themselves up by their own bootstraps. The world has lost a champion of rights for the poor and downtrodden - an eloquent voice for those who had little or no voice of their own.

I have lost a good friend and mentor whose philosophy has had a positive impact on those closest to me. Our family will be eternally grateful for Rhea's broad range of talents that enable all of us to enjoy a better world in which to live!

With our love, Phyllis and Gary Rieman

Gary & Phyllis Rieman - July 18, 2014 at 10:05 AM

TP

“ God saw he was getting tired
And the cure was not to be,
So He put his arms around him
And whispered, “Come with Me”
With tearful hearts we watched
him fade away.
Although we loved him dearly,
we could not make him stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands to rest.
God broke our hearts to
Prove to us,
He only takes the best.

*To Rhea and Sharon
A Scottish Blessing*

*Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.*

Barbara and Dick Payne

The Payne's - July 01, 2014 at 09:53 AM

KS

“ I want to tell both Bevan and Dara, two of my childhood friends, how sorry I am for them in the loss of their dad. I have fond memories of him from my elementary school days in Waco. I lost my dad last year; it is hard, but comforting to know that they are out of suffering and have new bodies! I would love to hear from you. Karen Davenport Smith
254-580-5296

Karen Davenport Smith - June 29, 2014 at 05:27 PM