



Merritt Ray Dimbath

March 27, 1943 - May 25, 2024

LAKELAND – Merritt Ray Dimbath, of Lakeland, FL passed away May 25, 2024 from natural causes. He is now joining his mom and dad in the Church Triumphant.

Ray was the second son of Rev. Merle S. Dimbath and Zella S. Dimbath. He was born on March 27, 1943 while his dad was in his first Church of the Nazarene pastorate in Mason City, Iowa. Ray graduated from Southwest Miami Sr High School then attended the University of Florida, being a proud band member in each. Ray then worked for National Airlines and then 32 years with Northwest Airlines. His stations included Miami, Chicago, Minneapolis, Washington DC, Tampa, and Orlando.

Ray was proud of his German heritage which began with the arrival of his grandfather to the United States in 1892. The family settled in Dayton, Ohio. Ray made several trips to visit family in Germany and research his family's history. He was a HUGE Gator fan and was the moderator for the online Gator fan chat page "Gator Country."

Ray loved Jesus and was always at church. He found much condolence in the Christian celebrations and traditional music and hymns. As one of Rays pastors told me "Ray loved his pastors, prayed for them, and inspired us. I have known him for 30 years and he was always kind and a friend. He never

failed to offer a positive word following the message.... Even when I did not deserve it.” He firmly embraced Christianity and recognized the importance of his German background which included Martin Luther.

Ray is survived by his older brother, Merle Dimbath, of Stuart Florida, and his younger brother, Paul Dimbath, of Lakeland. He was never married so he had time to enjoy his nieces and nephews. Ray has run the race and fought the good fight. Great job Ray.

On Wednesday, May 29th, viewing will be at Gentry Morrison Funeral Home, 1727 US 98 South, followed by a memorial service at 1:00 PM.

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Burial Park

4620 US Highway 98 S
Lakeland, FL 33812

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 29. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Gentry-Morrison Southside Chapel
1727 Bartow Road
Lakeland, FL 33801
(863) 688-7679
t.hall@gentry-morrison.com
<http://www.gentry-morrison.com>

Funeral Service

MAY 29. 1:00 PM (ET)

Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - Southside Chapel
1727 Bartow Road
Lakeland, FL 33801
(863) 688-7679
t.hall@gentry-morrison.com
<https://www.gentry-morrison.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Merritt Ray Dimbath



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - May 28, 2024 at 03:14 PM



“ Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of Merritt Ray Dimbath



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - May 28, 2024 at 01:15 PM



“ Ray was a wonderful and compassionate friend who was always interested in my athletic endeavors when I was in high school and college. He and I would often talk about Gator football and attend classic car shows from time to time. I will miss his enthusiasm and zest for life. RIP Ray, you were one of the good ones!

Alexander Foss - May 29, 2024 at 01:23 PM

BD

“ I often remember the wonderful time we spent together, when you took me to Miami and down at the keys - 45 years ago when I was a young boy.

Thank you Ray. You have created lifetime memories which I will never forget...Bernd, your cousin from Germany.
Condolences and warm regards to the family...

Bernd Dimbath - May 29, 2024 at 06:11 AM

GB

“ It was our honor and privilege to be Ray's friends and to worship with him for 25+ years at Highland Park Nazarene. He was always an active participant and member of our Sunday School class and enjoyed studying the Word. We will miss him here but are confident we will be with him again when we too arrive Home. Our condolences and sympathies to the Dimbath family. Glenda & John Baldwin

Glenda & John Baldwin - May 29, 2024 at 12:15 AM

NR

“ We were Blessed to study the Word with Ray while we were in Florida. Bill and Nancy Reichenbach

Nancy Reichenbach - May 28, 2024 at 06:59 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Merritt Ray Dimbath.



May 28, 2024 at 01:31 PM

DF

“ *Dee Shadowens and The Jim Shadowens fam purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Merritt Ray Dimbath.*



Dee Shadowens and The Jim Shadowens fam - May 28, 2024
at 12:13 PM

DA

“ *David (Brainstorm)*

Ray, you were a fixture and well loved at Gator Country and I wish I had the opportunity to meet you in real life.

RIP. Prayers for your family and friends.

DAVID C ALVAREZ - May 27, 2024 at 04:16 PM

KN

“ *Met Ray at a Gator football game in Kentucky...the game in which Chris Leak brought the Gators a victory. Ray loved the Gators, and I came down from Ohio to meet him. He was a Great Gator and he is going back Home now. You will be missed.*

Kevin (Uncle Nunzio) - May 27, 2024 at 02:30 PM

MP

I met Ray on Gator Country about 15 years ago. He always had kind things to say and they was not bigger Gator Fan than Raygator

Mike Pitts - May 27, 2024 at 02:45 PM