



## Raymond Arthur Stevenor

May 14, 1923 - March 29, 2021

Raymond Arthur Stevenor peacefully entered into heaven's gates in the early hours of March 29, 2021. Born at home to Arthur and Florence Stevenor in Byesville, Ohio, on a very rainy May day, Ray was the third of six children. The country doctor's car became stuck in the mud on the way to their small farm and Arthur rode a horse to retrieve the doctor. The two men then rode double-back horseback for two miles and arrived at the house when Ray was 4 hours old. He had been delivered by his maternal grandmother.

Ray completed grades 1-5 at a one room school house in Trail Run, Ohio and graduated from the only high school in the county (Cadiz High) in a class of 87 students. Following graduation, he worked as an apprentice cabinet maker at Carter Lumber Company in Akron, Ohio, and later began working at Firestone Tire and Rubber Company.

In May 1943, Ray began U.S. Army Basic Training in Texas. Later assigned to an anti-aircraft battalion, he rose to the rank of Sergeant. He served throughout France, Belgium (including the Battle of the Bulge), Holland and Germany, and landed at Omaha Beach shortly after D-Day. Everyone in the 15 man unit that he led during WWII returned home safely. After the war ended, he was one of two soldiers selected to attend classes at the Biarritz American University in France, studying psychology, math, and art, before completing his military tour as the Permanent Sergeant of the Guard at a

military institution in Germany.

Discharged from the Army in March 1946, Ray returned home to Akron and his job at Firestone. He'd met Marjorie Jane Manges at church when she was 14 and he was 17 and they had a casual friendship as pen pals during WWII. Their first date was April 1, 1946 and were engaged three weeks later. Married on June 15, 1946, they shared a devoted and deeply loving marriage for over 70 years until Margie preceded Ray to heaven in 2017. They opened a shoe repair shop in 1947 while Ray continued working full-time at Firestone. Both later obtained their real estate licenses and also invented the "Free Light" camping light.

Ray joined the Akron Fire Department in November 1950, and had a career that eventually led him to the position of District Chief. Upon retiring from the Akron Fire Department, Margie and Ray moved to St. Petersburg, FL in January 1978. Over the years, they enjoyed extensive travel in their trailers/RV's, visiting all 50 states. They also took over 40 cruises as well as traveled to Canada, Mexico, Europe, and South America. Ray's other interests included fishing, hunting, basketball, bowling and especially baseball. His faith was a very important part of his life and Ray served as both a deacon and church trustee and was the Director of the "Keenagers" Senior Group for 20 years. Ray truly had a heart for service and was very social, friendly, and engaging. He was a member of the Victory Lodge F&AM for over 50 years.

In October 2017 Ray relocated to Virginia to be near his daughter. He rapidly became involved in numerous daily activities the Heritage Village Assisted Living Facility and enjoyed researching informative presentations to present to fellow residents.

Ray is survived by his daughter Claudia Clontz and her husband Robert, his grandson Travis Mabry and his wife Annie, and great-granddaughters Kayla and Mia.

Family services will be held at a future date in Florida where Ray wished to be buried next to Margie at Woodlawn Memory Gardens in St. Petersburg. Memorial contributions can be made to the Gary Sinise Foundation that honors defenders, veterans, first responders and their families ([www.garysinisefoundation.org](http://www.garysinisefoundation.org)) or the charity of your choice.

# Tribute Wall

CC

“ 1 file added to the album *Ray Stevenor Tribute Video*



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**Claudia M Clontz** - July 08, 2021 at 03:12 PM

PT

“ *To Ray's family, his dearest loved ones: As I write, I note tomorrow is May 14 and as that day and the following days unfold, our minds will overflow with memories and love for Ray. You are in our prayers and most especially fervently from May 14-17. We will remember Ray and Margie and their wonderful example of love for Christ. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Love, Bob and Peg*

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**Peggy Townsend** - May 13, 2021 at 08:53 AM

NG

“ Quite a tribute for a blessed long well lived life of a good man. Ray will always be remembered for the love he had for his country, family community and friends. He was kind, loving and caring man. I enjoyed meeting him, knowing him and spending time with him. Ray was a wonderful person and always interesting to talk to. A lot of years, a lot of memories and a lot of lovely stories to tell and always with a big contagious smile.  
My deepest condolences to you Claudia. I thank you for sharing your Dad with me! You know how much I loved him. He was cherished by everyone.  
Goodbye my dear friend. Miss you a lot already. 🙏🙏  
Nadia Ghieth

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**Nadia Ghieth** - April 10, 2021 at 01:46 PM

NA

“ Mr Stevenor was a good guy. He had a full and blessed long life. Not only did he serve his country, he spent a great portion of his life serving his community. He always greeted me with a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eyes. I found Mr Stevenor to be a strong man for his age, very independent and surprisingly very tall! I enjoyed listening to his stories of his travels with his wife or conversing over the day to day goings on. He was a kind man, a thoughtful man who cared a lot about things beyond himself. For all these qualities and more, he will be missed. Natasha

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**Natasha** - April 05, 2021 at 07:40 AM

MG

“ Ray was a kind, gentle man. His love for his wife, Margie, and daughter, Claudia, was evident in everything he did. I was lucky to know them for a couple of years, and my life is better for that. He and Margie were treasures and will be missed, but they are together now and I rejoice in knowing that.

*Monica Gabler, friend at Legacy of Leesburg (FL)*

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**Monica L Gabler** - March 31, 2021 at 06:33 PM