



Raymond J. Palmer Jr.

September 8, 1952 - December 25, 2023

Raymond J. Palmer, Jr., 71, of Crystal Falls, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, December 25, with his wife by his side after a courageous battle with cancer.

Ray was born September 8, 1952, in Stambaugh, MI, son of the late Raymond and Sharon (Anderson) Palmer. He graduated from West Iron High School in 1970 and went on to play basketball at Suomi College for a year. Ray then transferred to Northern Michigan University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Ray married Betty Friestrom on June 27, 1987, at the United Lutheran Church in Crystal Falls. He was employed at the Forest Park School District for over 30 years as a teacher and coach. Ray started out teaching 5th and 6th grade science and eventually took a position teaching physical education. He also coached football and basketball for years and had a positive impact on students and athletes alike.

In his retirement, Ray worked at George Young Golf Course and shared many laughs with his friends on the grounds crew. He enjoyed golfing, hunting with the boys at Donnie B's camp, and traveling, especially winter vacations to Marco Island, FL. Ray loved sports and was an avid Green Bay Packer and NMU Hockey fan. Most of all, he loved attending his grandchildren's sporting events.

He is lovingly survived by his wife, Betty; son, Deryk Palmer (Jen Cafourek) of Kasson, MN; daughter, Nicole (Brad) Harvala of Negaunee, MI; brother, Don (Jane) Palmer of Marquette, MI; sister, Julie (Mark) Tollander of Shoreview, MN; six grandchildren, Kendra, Waylon, Nathan, Alex, Dominic, and Dylan; one great-grandchild, Jaylen, as well as several nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

In addition to his parents, Ray was preceded in death by a daughter, Kristi Palmer and an infant brother, Gary Lee.

Visitation will be held from 9:00 - 11:00 AM on Saturday, December 30 at the United Lutheran Church in Crystal Falls. A Memorial Service will follow at 11:00 AM at the church with Pastor D.J. Rasner officiating.

The family would like to extend a very special thank you to Jill Nocerini, Dr. Morel and all of his staff at Marshfield Medical Center Dickinson, as well as Aspirus Hospice, especially nurse Heather.

Condolences to the family of Raymond Palmer may be expressed online at www.nashfuneralhome.net

The family has trusted the Nash Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Crystal Falls with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **30**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

United Lutheran Church
506 Superior Ave
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

Memorial Service

DEC **30**. 11:00 AM (CT)

United Lutheran Church
506 Superior Ave
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

Tribute Wall

JB

“ Betty, I'm so sorry for your loss. I didn't know Ray but I certainly heard good things about him. I also heard there was a huge crowd for his funeral. That tells me what a good guy he was. Besides, if you picked him and were together so long, that tells me he's a good guy. I know there is nothing I can say to help, but know I'm thinking of you and praying for you. With care, Joanne Jacobson Burns

Joanne Jacobson Burns - January 01, 2024 at 01:17 PM

LA

“ Betty, I am so sorry for your loss. Condolences to you and to your family. Lorraine Anderson

LORRAINE P ANDERSON - December 30, 2023 at 10:02 AM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Raymond J. Palmer Jr..



December 29, 2023 at 03:45 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond J. Palmer Jr..



December 29, 2023 at 01:36 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Raymond J. Palmer Jr..*



December 29, 2023 at 07:48 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Raymond J. Palmer Jr..*



December 28, 2023 at 10:31 AM



“ *Sorry for your loss. Ray was a good friend back in the days. We will all miss him. Dan Ross of Iron River*

daniel ross - December 28, 2023 at 08:29 AM



“ *Very saddened to hear of Mr. Palmers passing. He was a great educator, coach, and role model to many of us coming up through the years. Many times he pushed me to do better, whether it was athletically or to simply straighten up my act when it was needed. The influence left by men like this in communities doesn't get recognized enough. I am thankful for the positive influence and work ethic he helped instill in me. Rest easy Coach*

Tucker Thoreson - December 27, 2023 at 11:35 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Raymond J. Palmer Jr..*



December 27, 2023 at 05:51 PM



“ *Dear Betty... soooo sorry to hear of your husbands passing... my sympathy to you and all your family.... Marie Konoske*

marie konoske - December 27, 2023 at 01:21 PM