



Dr. Ray Nisch Renbarger

July 20, 1926 - January 8, 2014

Ray Nisch Renbarger, beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, passed peacefully into the loving arms of our Lord on Jan. 8, surrounded by his family members.

Ray was born to Ernest and Marie Renbarger of Buchanan, Mich., on July 20, 1926. The couple's only child, Ray grew up in nearby Galien, Mich., a small town in rural southwest Michigan. Following his graduation from high school in 1944, Ray entered the U.S. Navy where he served for almost two years.

Ray returned home and enrolled at Western Michigan University, where he met Anne Large, the love of his life. They married on May 31, 1952, relocated to suburban Detroit and began raising a family.

Professionally, Ray was a distinguished teacher and administrator for 36 years at several high schools in Michigan, including Oak Park, where he was a counselor and assistant principal, and Clarenceville and Roscommon, where he was principal. Along the way, he earned his Masters degree from Wayne State and his Ph.D from Michigan State.

Through it all, his wife and their three sons – Daniel, David and Michael – were the focal points of his life. A devoted family man and exemplary role model, there was nothing that Ray wouldn't do for his three boys. And he

always displayed an unfailingly positive attitude through thick and thin. This refreshing sense of optimism rubbed off on everyone he met.

Ray and Anne retired in 1985 to the Chickasaw Point community in upstate South Carolina, where they built a house on Lake Hartwell and enjoyed the finer things in life, such as golf, boating, travelling and grand-parenting.

When Anne passed away in the fall of 1992, Ray's grief tempered his trademark optimism for a while as he learned new skills such as cooking and getting along on his own at 66. The following year, through the grace of God, Ray was introduced to Dean Lucas, the second love of his life. Herself a recent widow with three grown children, Dean and Ray hit it off famously and married on Sept. 9, 1994.

The newlyweds enjoyed their new life together, travelling extensively to both exotic locations such as China and the Caribbean as well as regional "mystery trips" where Dean would always be pleasantly surprised. They settled in at Chickasaw, hosting frequent family reunions at Dean's house on Lake Wateree or at Topsail Beach or High Hampton. Recently, Ray particularly enjoyed weekly online bridge games with his son, daughter-in-law and grandsons.

As the years went by, Ray and Dean began slowing down, but age and infirmity were no match for Ray's positive outlook, which he maintained to the very end.

On one of the final days of his life, one of his sons asked him how he was doing. He looked up from his bed and issued his standard response to that question, one he has repeated a million times before. "I'm great," he said, with Tony the Tiger-like conviction.

We couldn't agree with you more, Dad. You are the greatest.

Ray's survivors include his wife Dean of Chickasaw Point; his eldest son Daniel and his wife Donna of Dunwoody, Ga.; their daughter Diane Nesson and husband Erik and grand-daughter Caroline of Muncie, Ind.; their son Brian and his fiancée Catherine Durham of Minneapolis; his middle son David and his wife Irene Benavides of Dallas; his youngest son Michael and his wife Lynnette and their sons John, Jason and Ryan of Superior, Colo.; his stepson Greg Lucas and his wife Angela and sons Hadden, Boykin and Shannon and daughter Caroline of Easley, SC; his stepson Barry Lucas and wife Lisa and sons Clay and Ben and daughter Eliza of Cumming, Ga.; and his stepdaughter Angie Ellenburg and husband Brad and sons Lucas, Marc and Trey, of Cumming, Ga.

A Mass of Resurrection will be held at 1:00 PM, Saturday, January 11, 2014, at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, Seneca, SC, with burial to follow at Oconee Memorial Park. Following the burial, family and friends will gather at Chickasaw Clubhouse.

The family will receive friends from 6:00-8:00 PM, Friday, January 10, 2014 at Davenport Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Oconee Hospice of the Foothills, ATTN: Foundation Office, 298 Memorial Drive, Seneca, SC 29672, or The American Kidney Fund, 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 1010, Rockville, MD 20852.

Cemetery Details

Oconee Memorial Park

1923 Blue Ridge Boulevard
Seneca, SC 29672
<http://oconeememorialpark.com?>

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 10. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Davenport Funeral Home
311 S Highway 11
West Union, SC 29696
(864) 638-3611
davenportfhome@gmail.com
<https://www.davenportfuneralhome.com>

Mass of Resurrection

JAN 11. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
170 Bountyland
Seneca, SC 29672
<http://afpparish.org?>

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Ray Nisch Renbarger*

January 28, 2023 at 01:03 PM



“ *It was an honor and a pleasure taking care of Dr. Renbarger. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this sad time.
Patricia Holcombe.*

Patricia Holcombe - January 12, 2014 at 10:16 PM



“ *Karen Patterson lit a candle in memory of Dr.
Ray Nisch Renbarger*



Karen Patterson - January 10, 2014 at 12:18 PM



“ *I didn't know Ray very well but know his son, Dave. What I remember about Ray the few times I saw him was his complete & total happiness. You could tell he loved life to the fullest every day. What a beautiful gift he passed on to his family! Dave, I see that same quality in you. Praying for peace to you & all your family.*

Val Benavides, Dallas

Val Benavides - January 10, 2014 at 10:06 AM



“ *Sweet Liberty was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Nisch Renbarger.*



January 09, 2014 at 10:54 PM