



## Wiley Ray,

April 18, 1924 - July 11, 2014

Wiley Edward Ray, 90, died at home on Friday, July 11, 2014. Born in Farmhaven, Mississippi on April 18, 1924, Wiley was the youngest child of Walter Freeman and Maude Martin Ray. He attended Farmhaven High School where he lettered in basketball and track. He received a track scholarship from Hinds Community College. World War II had commenced, and before he completed the first semester, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He served with the 1st Marine Division in the South Pacific Theater and engaged in two landings on New Britain. At the conclusion of the War, he attended Holmes Community College and later Mississippi State University where he received his degree. He completed post graduate studies at MSU and Colorado State University. He taught veterans in New Albany, Mississippi and later taught vocational agriculture in Union County, Mississippi. He began working for the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service in Copiah County in 1954 as Assistant County Agent in charge of 4-H Clubs. He organized the first 4-H Horse Club in the County. In 1965, he began serving as Area Extension Agent to work with the Mississippi Federated Co-op Vegetable Processing Plant in Crystal Springs. In this position, he assisted farmers throughout Mississippi and areas in Alabama, Arkansas, and Louisiana. At that same time, he assisted farmers growing horticultural crops in Copiah, Simpson, Smith, Lawrence, Rankin, and Lincoln Counties. He was named County Agent for Copiah County in 1969 and served in that capacity until he retired from the Extension Service in 1982. He received the Distinguished Service Award at

the National County Agent's Association in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He spearheaded the push for Copiah County to build a one-stop building for farmers and acted as a liaison between the Board of Supervisors and three USDA agencies (S.C.S., A.S.C.S. and F.H.A). After he retired from the Extension Service, he continued to assist local farmers as a private consultant. He married Margaret (Margie) Luckett Ray on November 12, 1948. They had two sons, Wiley Gregory (Greg) Ray and Gary Anthony Ray. He was preceded in death by his oldest son Greg, his parents and siblings. He is survived by his wife and son Gary (Kathy); two grandsons Daniel Wiley Ray and Stephen Paul Ray of Boulder, Colorado; his daughter-in-law Marsha Pickens Ray of Escondido, California; and granddaughters Christianne Ray Van Grunsven (Greg) of Eagle Rock, California and Erica Ray Eagle (Craig) of New York, New York. He was involved with many organizations in the community including Little League Baseball, Boy Scouts, and the Lions Club. Wiley enjoyed hunting, fishing and meeting with his friends at D.'s for coffee and fellowship. Visitation will be on Monday, July 14 from 6 PM to 8 PM at Stringer Family Funeral Services. Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, July 15 at 11 AM at St. John Catholic Church in Crystal Springs. Internment will be in the Canton City Cemetery, Canton, Mississippi at 1:30 PM. Memorials may be made to Brookhaven Hospice Ministries, Inc., 397 Brookhaven Street, Brookhaven, MS 39601.,

# Tribute Wall



“ *Wiley Ray,*

January 28, 2023 at 04:45 PM



“ *We are fortunate to have you as neighbors on Center Street. Our prayers are with you and your family. I was the same age as Greg.and remember some fun times in Latin club.,*

**Brenda & Kevin Toups and Thelma Prewitt** - April 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Praying for your family in your loss of Mr. Wiley. He will be missed by all of the coffee gang. Enjoyed getting to know Mr. Wiley over coffee every morning.,*

**Ron and Connie Evans** - April 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Wiley was a wonderful person who was vital part of our lives on this farm until his retirement. He will be deeply missed. Our prayers go out to his family.,*

**The Walter West Family** - April 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Just found out about Mr. Wiley's passing. He was a good friend to my father, Carl Donahoe and me. Both were true MSU Bulldogs. My condolences to Mrs. Ray and Family.,*

**Buddy Donahoe** - April 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM