



Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley

November 4, 1949 - August 9, 2022

Dr. Ray N. McKinley. August 9, 2022. Age 72. Beloved husband of Lynn (nee COFFELT). Loving father of Kyle (Sari) McKinley, Dr. Brittany (Chris) McKinley-Holloway, Gwen (Jodi) Bondar, Blake McKinley, Bryan McKinley and Tyler McKinley. Proud and adored grandfather of Josie, Julian, Trey, Brady and Emerson. Dear brother of Otis (Sara) McKinley, Janine (Gary) MacManamy, Rand (Cherie) McKinley, Gwen (Don) Hanna, Margo (Mike) Heintz, Grant (Debbie) McKinley, Darla McKinley, Holly (Ted) Maitland, the late Velton (Kathy) McKinley, the late Gayle (John) Hannett and the late Bryan McKinley. Treasured son-in-law of Sue and the late Dewey Coffelt, and brother-in-law of Michael Coffelt and Sharon Lewis. Fun and loving uncle of many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Otis and Phyllis McKinley.

Our Ray was a beloved son, brother, friend, athlete, student, professional, husband, father, grandfather, pilot and author. We rejoice in where he is and who he is with! Ray had the wisdom and courage to let go of his fears and pain and let God sanctify and change him into the man beloved by all.

When he took his last breath on earth it was followed by his first breath in Heaven.

Ray lived a purpose driven life with a God inspired self determination to

conquer his fears and live by faith. Ray's book, Ride The Elephant, is his personal walk of faith. It is a roadmap, a how to embrace our fears, by not only facing them, but using them to strengthen our resolve to walk of faith.

Ray loved Jesus, craving Him in scripture during the last years of his life.

Ray was a man with a plan, prepared and armed with knowledge he wanted to be ready to meet his Lord and Savior.

Imagine his being bathed in grace covered by the Light of the World and welcomed with love beyond all understanding into the ramparts of Heaven.

Imagine his quick smile, boisterous laugh and tears of pure joy when Bryan jumped into his arms!

Visitation Monday from 2-9pm at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons 54880 Van Dyke at 25 Mile Rd (SHELBY TOWNSHIP). Funeral Tuesday Instate 10:00am at St. Peter Lutheran Church, 17051 24 Mile Rd at Romeo Plank until time of Funeral Service at 11:00am. In lieu of flowers donations are welcome to St. Peter Lutheran Church Stephen Ministry, Lutheran High School Association or the Macomb Charitable Foundation. Interment, Cadillac Memorial Gardens East. Please share memories with the family at their "On Line Guest Book" @ WujekCalcaterra.com

Cemetery Details

Cadillac Memorial Gardens East

38425 Garfield
Clinton Township, MI 48038

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **15**. 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons Inc, Shelby Township
54880 Van Dyke
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Instate / Funeral Service

AUG **16**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter Lutheran Church
17051 24 Mile Road
Macomb, MI 48042

Tribute Wall

NM

“ *My heart breaks and I am saddened by the loss of Dr. McKinley. He was a remarkable person and I was blessed to have him as my dentist for so many years. He exude so much Kindness and Warmth to me as his patient. He always had a smile on his face. My appointments were always pleasant ones, because he always wanted to know how life was treating me or he might tell me a joke, in either case he made me smile / laugh too. I was so thankful for our patient/doctor relationship. So thanks, Dr. McKinley you were an amazing dentist and you will truly be missed.*



God needed another Angel and he sent for Kinder and gentle you!!

My thoughts and prayers are with the entire family during this difficult time. May God Bless and care for each of you and, may the memories forever live in your Hearts!!

Wishing you Comfort and Peace.

Nora Malone - September 16, 2022 at 11:21 PM

RW

“ *Sending love and prayers to the McKinley family for comfort during this time of sorrow. Dr Ray McKinley was not only an excellent dentist but a mentor/teacher of Business Character Values at Lutheran High School North in Macomb MI. Dr Ray McKinley has touched our family and will forever be remembered for his service and footprint on each of our lives.*



- Rachael Williamson

Rachael Williamson - August 16, 2022 at 09:18 AM

KW

“ We are deeply saddened at the sudden passing of Dr. McKinley. He will be greatly missed by our family. He made a great impact on our daughters for his teaching at Lutheran High North; teaching that will last their lifetime. His book is an amazing read and will remain a reference for motivation and spirit. Our heart and prayers go out to his family and office staff. He will be deeply missed. Love and prayers, Scott and Kim Williamson, Rachael, Lauren, and Sarah Williamson



Kim Williamson - August 16, 2022 at 07:04 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.



August 15, 2022 at 10:32 PM

PB

“ Our deepest sympathy for the loss of Dr. McKinley. We are saddened to hear the news of his passing. Our thoughts & prayers are with his family and staff. God bless, Phil & Maria F. Biundo



Phil & Maria F. Biundo - August 15, 2022 at 10:17 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.*



August 15, 2022 at 01:42 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.*



August 15, 2022 at 11:44 AM



“ *ToPS Team purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.*



ToPS Team - August 15, 2022 at 11:01 AM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.*



August 15, 2022 at 10:23 AM

RT

“ My heart goes out to Dr. McKinley's family, friends and staff. So very sorry for your loss. Rest in peace.

Renee Tedder - August 15, 2022 at 09:50 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.



August 15, 2022 at 09:42 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.



August 15, 2022 at 09:21 AM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.



August 14, 2022 at 10:14 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.*



August 14, 2022 at 08:06 AM



“ *My heart is broken. I was on the condo board with Ray at Otsego in Gaylord, and I loved serving with him as our President. I often saw him driving the grandchildren around the course, and he was so happy! When he had time he went off by himself to play a few holes. I loved seeing Ray and Lynne drive up in their big motor home and park for the weekend!*

When Ray shared his book with me I was enthralled. He had a great story and powerful message. He mentored young people, but he took time with anyone who wanted to learn how to navigate the rough things in life. He was humble and kind, and will be forever missed.

If you have not read his book, do it.

The last line of his obituary will make sense, and you will see Brian running to him.

God bless you Lynne and family

Karen Billman - August 13, 2022 at 05:22 PM



“ *We are saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. McKinley. Our prayers go out to his family and his staff. Not only was he a fantastic dentist, but a great guy with a kind caring for his patients. Always smiling, always informative, always comforting. He's been there for us the better part of 45 years. We will miss him. God bless his memory.*

bonnie & richard gerjekian - August 13, 2022 at 01:52 PM

GF

“ Gary and Yolonda Franks purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.



Gary and Yolonda Franks - August 13, 2022 at 08:27 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.



August 12, 2022 at 10:48 PM



“ There truly are not adequate words to express the impact Doc has had on my life the past 12 years that I've known him. The love and affection I have for him is deep and unconditional.

I am so grateful I took Business Character Values as a high school senior. The lessons I learned from him are invaluable and have shaped me into the woman I am today. He taught me the importance of being a person of character, using critical thinking skills, and implementing those skills to live authentically out of my own beliefs, values, and principles. His lessons were very influential in my process of making my faith and relationship with Jesus my own, not just something I was raised to believe, which I am very grateful for!

I am thankful he and Lynn stayed in relationship with me as an alumna by inviting me to seminars, barbecues, and his 70th birthday (which is still the best party I've attended!).

Doc always saw potential in me that I never saw in myself, and I'm thankful he continually challenged me and gave me opportunities to learn and grow!

I started as his assistant in January 2021 with absolutely no experience; when he offered me the job he said, "I know you don't have the dental skills, but you have the character. I can easily teach you dental skills, character isn't taught as easily."

Shortly after I started dental assisting, he asked me to help him market his book, "Ride the Elephant: The Journey to True Success", again with zero experience, but he believed in me. Over the past year and a half he continued to challenge me with new learning opportunities and job requirements, and I can now say my resume is pretty healthy with a vast array of newly aquire skills thanks to his faith in me!

I will always cherish my days as his assistant, getting to glean from his wisdom continually. He always had the best advise for any situation I was processing! He always encouraged me to answer my

own questions by using the socratic method- answering my question with a question to inspire me to discover my own core beliefs.

I will miss our playful banter, his continual teasing of me about being the cruise director running the lido deck at work, and seeing that mischievous grin he was infamous for. I will miss so much about him, but mostly his gentle fatherly presence in my life!

Doc and his family have become like family to me. I am grateful for the friendship in them I get to continue to grow because of Doc's role in our lives. I love you all dearly!

*Xoxo
Marissa Mackey*

Marissa Joy - August 12, 2022 at 08:44 PM

AB

“ It's really shocking and sad.. My husband and I couldn't believe it, especially that Dr. McKinley was such a great doctor, gentle, caring and empathetic and of course professional.

We've been His patients for almost 25 years, and so happy to had him as a dentist, so kind.

For me especially it was a blessing because of my difficulty dealing with pain and etc..and with Him I felt safe and secure. We will definitely miss him.

Yet our Lord Jesus Christ knows when it's the best time to take His loving child to His Kingdom.

Our sincere condolences to all the family and especially to his wife, such a kind lady.

God bless you all.

Agnes & Mark Bryczkowski

with prayers 🙏❤️🙏🌹🌸🌹



Agnes Bryczkowska - August 12, 2022 at 05:58 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.



August 12, 2022 at 03:15 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.*



August 12, 2022 at 03:06 PM



“ *I am in shock and so very sad to hear of Dr. McKinley's passing. What a great human being and fantastic sense of humor. He would take such care and make sure I was ok during procedures. He had such a kind heart and you immediately felt at ease despite being at the dentist. I'll miss him. Prayers for his family and friends 🙏🥹🙏*

Lauri - August 12, 2022 at 01:35 PM



“ *Love's Tapestry was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.*



August 12, 2022 at 11:48 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.*



August 12, 2022 at 10:24 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.



August 12, 2022 at 09:46 AM



“ Dr. McKinley meant more to me than he will ever know. I worked as a dental assistant for Dr. McKinley after college prior to and during nursing school and have continued to go back for every dental appointment since. He hired me when I was waiting on him when he was at lunch with Lynn at Boston's in September 2008. I will never forget that day. He was my boss, but also my mentor and he shaped my life in ways that are still playing out today. He taught me the importance of character and integrity at a time when I was still very immature and vulnerable. As a result, I have him to thank for who I have become today. He has done the same for countless individuals. I can't even put into words how much he will be missed by everyone he touched. He truly is one of the most wonderful men I have ever known. His loving, stubborn, kind, sassy, generous, intelligent, inspiring, spiritual, humorous and determined soul will continue to be loved and honored always. I will miss your wisdom and advice. I love you doc.

Magan Cetlinski - August 12, 2022 at 08:57 AM



I couldn't have said it better. He was there to help pick up the pieces when I felt my life was falling apart. He definitely was not just a boss, but made a huge impact on the lives of everyone who knew him. He will truly be missed.

Katie Diccico - August 12, 2022 at 07:23 PM

MB

“ *The dentistry profession lost a good one. He threw a pretty big shadow and will be a tough act to follow.*
The world in general lost a key piece with the doc's passing. Integrity, wisdom and all around great man. I knew him as a patient but was treated like he knew me on a different level. He had the gift of making one feel welcome like that. My genuine sympathies are warmly extended to his family.

Michael B - August 12, 2022 at 08:12 AM

KM

I am still in shock and so sad about this news. Dr McKinley was my dentist for almost as long as he has practiced. He and Lynn along with the whole group were like family. I echo all the sentiments I have read as there is just too much good to put to words. He was the best and I am thinking of his family and the office. He was much loved, and I'll miss him terribly. Kathy McGathy

Kathy McGathy - August 13, 2022 at 09:40 AM

BL

“ I have a gold crown that he did over a decade ago. I've had a couple of dentists that have since seen it, and commented on "how beautiful" it is... and, "Who did that crown? It's gorgeous."

That is pretty impressive to me that he could shock and woo other dentists and hygienists, who have spent who knows how many hours staring at teeth.

It was impressive sure, but it really wasn't surprising. He went through life dedicating himself to mastery of himself; only to eventually find that life was more about everyone else than it was about himself. Subsequently, he spent the rest of his life trying to teach everyone else how to master themselves.

The crown was crafted by a master. He didn't have to put that much effort to make every single tooth he worked on into a masterpiece; half the effort he normally put into to his work would have sufficed, and he still would have been known as an excellent dentist. He did it because he cared about the patient-- if I told him about how people regarded his work on that crown, I would guess that he would have selflessly said that I deserved the job he did, or something along those lines. He cared for every patient, and every single one of his co-workers, friends, and family in the same way.

He earned a doctorate through hard work and dedication, and later in life wrote and published a book that didn't even have "Dr." in the authors name. He conquered the vice of pride. It is pretty difficult for me to even think of another person I've ever met that could set pride aside like he did. Honestly, I don't think I can.

He was an extraordinary person. I feel sickened by the sudden passing, and I extend my deepest condolences to his immediate family, and anyone else who is feeling the depths of this tragic loss.

BLH - August 12, 2022 at 07:52 AM

FH

“ *Frank, Joy ,Frank J. Holecek purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.*



Frank, Joy ,Frank J. Holecek - August 12, 2022 at 07:29 AM

DF

“ *The passing of our friend Ray deeply saddens Bev and me, and our sincere heartfelt condolences go out to Lynn and their family. Mentor and teacher to many, caring, compassionate, optimistic, and always humorous, Ray found time to stop and talk with everyone, regardless of how busy his schedule was. He always found goodness in everyone, and rarely are so many good qualities found in one person, and he made you a better person by just knowing him.*

Bev first met Ray in 1977, when she was looking for a job. She had no dental experience, but that didn't matter to Ray, who told her he would train her. That day began the start of Bev's acceptance into Ray's dental family, a position she and many others still hold today.

Ray, Lynn, Bev, and I last met for lunch a year ago. Ray's book "Ride the Elephant" was out, and he and I discussed the challenges of writing a book. I told him I had been working on one for several years, and our discussion shifted from his book to helping me with some roadblocks and how to overcome them. That was just the guy he was, putting others first. Before we left, he made me promise I would not only finish my book, but we discussed future books we both would write.

We often take saying goodbye for granted, but you never know how true that statement can be. Always say goodbye as if it will be the last time. Cherish your time with family and friends, and never take life for granted.

Thank you, Ray, for everything you have done for us, and as promised, I will finish that book!

Dennis Fritchie - August 11, 2022 at 11:34 PM

MH

“ Ray was the best dentist I ever had the privilege to partner with. His standards were kept high and he has my complete respect. In addition to the professional development I recall the fun we had so often; Especially Carribbean Queen at the Ren Cen. When I had my twins, we visited the Romeo office on our way home from the hospital to introduce the wee ones. We were family! My heartfelt sympathy to Lynn and family.

Marie Hochstein - August 11, 2022 at 10:13 PM



“ We Miss You Already. Thanks Doc You Are Forever Remembered.



Tommy Defer - August 11, 2022 at 09:15 PM

JW

“ I feel privileged to have met such an inspirational Dentist. In the short amount of time getting to know Dr McKinley and meeting his staff, I can see why he is liked by so many. My deepest condolences to the McKinley Family.

Jessica Welch - August 11, 2022 at 08:25 PM

IM

“ I am a fairly new patient of Dr. Mckinley and at age 87 I have seen my share of dentists but, Dr McKinley was my favorite. The family will be in my prayers. I am sorry for their loss.
Sincerely, Irene Marek

Irene Marek - August 11, 2022 at 08:14 PM

PB

“ Dr. McKinley became my dentist when he had his practice in Romeo back in the 80's. What a special person. He had the greatest character and personality. He was the epitome of hard work. He will be greatly missed. I was so shocked to hear this sad news. Our prayers for all of his own and work family. Patty Brynaert

Patty brynaert - August 11, 2022 at 06:54 PM

GA

“ We started seeing Doctor McKinley nearly 30 years ago when the practice was on Delco Blvd. We had just moved into the area. My wife and I have always received the very best in dental care from him. I believe it is directly attributable to him that I still have all my own teeth at age 70. We shared a love of the Lord, and both lived our faith. Ray invited me to be one of the business people mentoring high school students at the Lutheran high school, when he was teaching his Character classes. I did that for a few years. We also shared a love of flying. He always said he wanted to dust off his logbook and get back in the air. His family had a proud legacy coupling aviation and dentistry. Paula and I will truly miss Ray, but we're sure he has a very capable staff and doctors to carry on. Rest In Peace my brother, and save a place for me at your table in heaven. We know you're with your (our) Lord and Savior. We can take comfort in that.

Gary and Paula King

Gary - August 11, 2022 at 06:45 PM

VA

“ Dr. McKinley...There are no words...absolutely no words. You are one of the finest men I have every had the honor of knowing. I have enjoyed our conversations and the teasing over the years while I was in that dentist chair of yours. Every time I saw you put a smile of my face. Especially the joy of being able to harass you all the time. I love the fact Lynn gave me full permission to do so and to do it often! With her blessing I took that ball and ran with it. So much so your outstanding team knew if I was there it was going to be some entertainment. They enjoyed listening to me give you the blues. There is way too many topics we share, too many deep conversations, times I came to your class school project to participate in the character discussions. It just way too many stories.

So, I will share what I felt. It felt good to know there are good people in this world. I felt honor to call you my friend. I felt blessed to hear the stories of your family and listen to the pride you had regarding your wife, children and grandchildren. I felt jealous wishing I was a little child and that you were my grandpa so I can go play in the mud knowing I couldn't get in trouble because Grandpa let me. I was impressed learning of the team that you and your wife built over the years. I feel a lost as we all do of knowing I will not have you to harass with love and affection anymore.

After the shock has worn off, we will all be able to celebrate. Celebrate the fact you are a man of God. You are with Him, His Son and those that went before you. You will be there having deep conversations and cracking jokes and harassing somebody. Ray you will continue to do what you always done. You will keep an eye out on all your babies. From your Queen Baby Lynn all the way down to the last grandbaby and future down.

Lynn and family, Ray is still there and in those quiet times when you least expect it you will feel him. Because we all know Ray will never leave any of you alone.

With my deepest love and respect,

Valorie Anderson-Branch along with Gary Sr, Victoria and Gary Branch Jr.

Valorie Anderson-Branch - August 11, 2022 at 06:18 PM

SM

“ *I am very saddened by the news of Rays passing. I have many great memories growing up with Ray and the McKinley family and I always looked up to Ray as if he where my older brother. Most of my time spent with Ray was from ages 8-15. I know that he had many relationships during his life and that those of you who knew Ray best know what a great man he was. I an honored to have had the time with Ray that I did. He will continue to be an inspiration to me through his book and his teachings. Thank you Ray for all you have done.*

Sean,

Sean Velton Mckinley - August 11, 2022 at 01:55 PM

TF

“ *Thatcher Family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.*



Thatcher Family - August 11, 2022 at 11:28 AM

OM

“ My wife, Pam, and I met Ray and the McKinley family through dentistry in meetings in Hawaii. I immediately revered Ray as a great man in all respects, and was incredibly blessed by his knowledge and example. His willingness to share and care with and for so many people will be among many aspects of his legacy. Pam and Michael OBrien, Auburn, Alabama.

OBrien Michael - August 11, 2022 at 09:35 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.



August 11, 2022 at 09:28 AM

BM

“ Ray made his family, friends and patients his highest priority, being a bright light to all. We thank God for the privilege of knowing him and seeing how he modeled being a servant to many. May your legacy continue on through all the lives you have touched including ours.

To Lynn and all your family, we send our prayers and know that each of you have special memories with Ray that will last forever.

*We are all of us molded and remolded by those who have loved us
And thou that love may pass or change we are nonetheless their
work*

*A work which very often we do not understand or is exactly as we
intended.*

*No friend, no love will ever cross the path of our destiny without
Leaving a mark forever.*

*We love you Ray and God bless!
Bill and Linda McGrane*

Bill McGrane - August 11, 2022 at 08:52 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.



August 10, 2022 at 10:31 PM

JS

“ *Dr.McKinley, my life is better in many ways since I was blessed to have met you and had the great pleasure to work with you . You truly are a one of a kind Gem. My highest respect goes to you. Read your book and chose to live my life by it. My dearest condolences go out to your family. You are truly missed. God above has truly gained a great angel.*



*Your friend forever
Joale Sonnenfeld*

Joale Sonnenfeld - August 10, 2022 at 08:20 PM

KS

On behalf of all the Kiwis (Downunder) who had the joy of meeting Ray at the time of James and Brookies wedding...you made an impression on us all of kindness, generous and a fun loving man. We are lucky to have had this meeting and good times.

Katy & Doug Hamilton Jason & Anna Smal - August 10, 2022 at 10:47 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.*



August 10, 2022 at 05:21 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Nelson McKinley.*



August 10, 2022 at 05:04 PM



“ *I am forever grateful for Doc's impact on both of my children, initially through the BCV class that he taught at LHN. It was more than a class, it was a ministry of sorts that Doc was compelled to pour his wisdom and knowledge into the lives of our/my children. He cared so deeply about them that he had an annual gathering for both new graduates and alumni of his class.*

Marissa stayed connected with the McKinley's well beyond graduation 11 years ago. I think Doc rewarded her loyalty by offering her a job she was not skilled for, telling her she "already has the character, we will teach you the skills". That was so Doc! He saw potential and abilities in her and pushed her out of her comfort zone, which caused her to grow and built a new confidence in her, not to mention several new skill sets! She adores Lynn & Doc who have embraced her like family and Doc became a father figure to her.

For all the many ways you have impacted my daughter, you have impacted me and I am forever grateful that God allowed our paths to intersect.

I will miss those gentle, blue eyes that felt like they pierced my soul. Rest now, in the arms of your Lord & Savior Jesus.

Cyndi Mackey - August 10, 2022 at 04:55 PM

KR

“ Truly a man with a genuine heart. Such an inspiration to a lot of us in his dedication to teaching running a business and being one of the best in the dental industry. This man truly loved his entire family with all of his heart and you will be truly missed Ray. RIP❤️

Kim Roney - August 10, 2022 at 04:26 PM

MK

Very untimely! You will be sorely missed Doc. My deepest condolences to the family.

Martin C Kaoma - August 10, 2022 at 08:19 PM

PB

Our deepest sympathy to all the family. Phil & Barb Browe

Phil & Barb Browe - August 11, 2022 at 11:22 AM

JD

My deepest sympathy to Lynn and all the McKinley family. I have such great memories of the years I spent working in his dental practice as well as sharing time just being friends. You will always be in my heart.
Joan Delozier

joan Delozier - August 16, 2022 at 06:35 AM