



Dennis Lee Ray

February 11, 1961 - October 14, 2019

Mineral Point - Dennis L. Ray, 58, a man who was “happy every day ‘he woke’ up”, succumbed to cancer (mesothelioma) on Monday, October 14th, 2019, surrounded by family, in the comfort of his home.

Dennis was born on February 11, 1961 to David and Sharon (Douglas) Ray. He married his best friend and “Angel”, Brenda (Kitelinger) on May 28, 1982 and renewed his vows on May 28, 2014.

The self-proclaimed “Original American Picker” had a shared passion for antiques along with his father. Dennis was a proud member of Laborers’ International Union/Laborers’ Local 464. He enjoyed Harley rides with his boys, watching sports, hunting and spending Friday nights at supper clubs. Dennis was known for starting each morning off with a ‘cup of Joe’ at the Graber farm followed by keeping tabs on the town while driving up and down the streets of Mineral Point, sometimes while managing a tractor-drawn hayride. There wasn’t a person he wouldn’t stop and talk to as he enjoyed starting conversations and meeting new people. If you could partake in his back-and-forth banter, you knew Dennis liked you.

Dennis is survived by the love of his life, Brenda; his children, Ben, Nikki (Mitch), Mike (Kat), Katy (Jeremy) and his 8 grandchildren, Tayden, Tucker, Tanner, Jaycee, Aurora, Kaylee, Navaia and Carson. He is also survived by

his mother, Sharon; his siblings Sherry, Duane (Pam) and Rina (Thad); his grandma, Avis; his mother-in-law, Sally; his brothers-in-law Dan (Cindy), Randy (Jody), Jim (Amy), Joe (Kim), Jason (Kim); his sister-in-law Kathy (John); his daughter-in-law, Alicia; his 4-legged friends, Suzy and Charlee; and many special nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and dear friends. Dennis will be reunited in heaven with his father, David; his siblings, Robin and Carolyn; his father-in-law, Ed and his brother-in-law, David.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 19, 2019 at GORGEN MCGINLEY & AYERS FUNERAL HOME in Dodgeville. Pastor Beryl Melcher will officiate. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery. Friends may call from 4:00 pm. until 8:00 p.m. on Friday, October 18, 2019 and on Saturday from 10:00 until 10:50 a.m. at the Gorgen McGinley & Ayers Funeral Home. A luncheon will follow the burial at the Mineral Point VFW and American Legion Hall. The family would like to extend a special thanks to the Agrace hospice caretakers, Tammy Rule and Jessica Jerry, for their around-the-clock healing hands and to his special niece, Cory Bennett, for her abundance of love, patience and kindness not only with Dennis during his illness, but with all of us during the most difficult days.

Dennis made great strides in his personal life. We all have regrets for one thing or another. The difference is, Dennis owned up to and acknowledged those mistakes. For that, he became the bigger person. He claimed his power and decided who he was going to be when the world challenged him. He changed. Although he was battling a sickness, he never ceased to put other's needs before his own. His love for family and friends was undeniable, unconditional and never-ending.

Without a doubt, Dennis' most cherished memories were made at home, with family – Ben, the spitting image of his father; Nikki, the reliable rock and strength of the family; Mike, the 'good-time Charlie' whose laugh lights up any

room; Katy, she might be late for the party, but she brings a heart of gold with her and then of course, Brenda Lou... Happiness is being married to your best friend.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery

700 Dodge Street
Mineral Point, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 18. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Gorgen-McGinley & Ayers Funeral Home
400 East Grace Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533
(608) 935-5222
gorgenfh@mhtc.net

Visitation

OCT 19. 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM (CT)

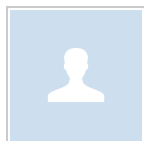
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Memorial Service

OCT **19**. 11:00 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Dennis Lee Ray*

November 15, 2022 at 06:49 AM



“ *Cindy Roalfs lit a candle in memory of Dennis Lee Ray*



Cindy Roalfs - December 04, 2019 at 04:19 AM



“ *Sorry to hear we lost Denny, a true Mineral Pointer! Always took time to say hi, how are YOU doing. My brother Bob and Denny have 'just' a few stories to tell. Godspeed Denny! We'll miss you! Terry and Mary Jo (Miller) Bystol*

Mary Jo Bystol - October 19, 2019 at 08:06 PM



“ *Im so very sorry for your loss you guys.. I just now heard and read this, and my heart is literally broken for you kids!! Your mama too.. Its been years sence wev hung out, and been around one another, but il never forget all of our great times and memories we shared.. I love yous, and Nikki, mesg me if you need ANYTHING AT ALL!! I am and always will be here if you ever need me!.. All my love and prayers through this difficult time you guys, Love, Amanda Schaaf*

Amanda Wells - October 19, 2019 at 01:50 AM

DY

“ Sorry for your loss. I always enjoyed a great conversation with Dennis when I was back in the MP area and happened to run into him. Rest in peace, Dennis. My condolences and prayers to all of your family.

Diane Yager

Diane Yager - October 18, 2019 at 10:26 PM

BT

“ To The Ray Family,

May you find the strength and sympathy in caring hearts at this difficult time. Wishing you peace and healing. God bless, Billie Jo

Billie Jo Tonn - October 17, 2019 at 04:49 PM

VD

“ Village of Dousman purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Dennis Lee Ray.



Village of Dousman - October 17, 2019 at 09:44 AM

RS

“ I didn't know Dennis, but I am sorry for your loss as he succumbed to mesothelioma, a rare disease that is not well known or understood. I hope we can start to make a difference in this in order to help others.

Robin Stroebel - October 17, 2019 at 09:03 AM

DM

“ Thoughts and Prayers to the family and friends of Dennis.

Denny Moore

Dennis Moore - October 17, 2019 at 07:42 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dennis Lee Ray.*



October 16, 2019 at 07:59 PM

JB

“ *My condolences to the family of Dennis. I am a first cousin to his grandma Avis and was fortunate in being able to visit with her this past August at the Evans family reunion.*



Jan Booze - October 15, 2019 at 10:06 PM

KB

“ *I'm so sorry for your lose. Denny and I played alot of softball together and had some good times. RIP Denny. Thinking about you all.*

Kelly (Johnson) Bontekoe.

Kelly Bontekoe - October 15, 2019 at 07:24 PM

KB

“ *Kathy Bleecker-piirto lit a candle in memory of
Dennis Lee Ray*



Kathy Bleecker-piirto - October 15, 2019 at 03:43 PM