

Leonard Ray Forrester Obituary

Leonard Ray Forrester - August 18, 1948- December 14, 2023

Ray was born in Richmond, VA, the son of Ivis Leonard Forrester and Ridia C. Pittman Forrester on August 18, 1948. He was raised in Lancaster County Virginia surrounded by a loving family of uncles, aunts and cousins. Ray was baptized and a member of Lebanon Baptist Church. He graduated from Lancaster High School in 1966 and went on to RPI and graduated from Purdue University with honors with a degree in Constructional Engineering in 1970. Ray was a member of Phi Kappa Theta. Ray was introduced to his wife, Alexis Goltart by one of his fraternity brothers who was dating one of her sorority sisters.

After graduation, Ray enlisted in the United States Army in the Corp of Engineers where he served proudly from 1970 to 1973 and rose to the rank of 1st Lieutenant.

In 1973 Ray joined his father in the construction business, building custom homes and buildings in the Northern Neck of Virginia. Ray was a man with great integrity which he has passed down to his son when Chris joined the company.

A week after Lex graduated from Purdue University, the couple was married on December 29, 1973 and moved to Lancaster County where they built their home and raised their son, Christopher Leonard and daughter, Jill Marie. Ray led a Boy Scout troop for Chris while Lex led a Girl Scout troop for Jill. There are many stories to be told about the Boy Scouts, their fathers, their camping experiences and their spaghetti dinners. Ray and Lex enjoyed taking their kids camping with their cousins up in the mountains in the fall where they experienced rain, snow, or unseasonably warm weather.

Ray supported his community by joining Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department where he held many offices, helped in fund raising and became a Lifetime member. As a member of Lebanon Baptist Church, Ray served as Sunday School Director, and was a member of the building committee and maintenance committee. He also served on the Lancaster County Planning Commission. Ray joined the local Jaycees chapter, held several offices and was a District Director. There were many adventures with constructing and running the Jaycees Haunted Houses.

Ray was passionate about hunting and Alfonso Hunt Club. He loved being out in nature during a hunt, hearing the dogs run, and getting a shot at a big buck. Ray shared his love of

hunting with his son, Chris, his two grandsons, Kincaid and Nathan and his granddaughter, Cyndy. Hunting bears in Maine and elk in Colorado were adventures of a lifetime. Ray supported the Alfonso Hunt Club scholarship program to help young hunters get a head start on their college education.

Ray died peacefully at home surrounded by family after suffering from a blood disorder, MDS. He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Lex; their son, Chris and his wife, Teresa and their son, Nathan; their daughter, Jill and her husband, Kirk DeVine and their children, Kincaid and Cyndy. Also surviving is his sister, Betty Williams, nephews Dwayne Williams, and Daryl Williams and his wife, Patti and their children, Matt, Brandon, and Molly; lots of cousins and “in-laws and out-laws”.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ray’s memory to Alfonso Hunt Club Scholarship Fund, 104 Spencer Lane, Weems, 22576; Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Dept., PO Box 205, Lively, 22507: or Lebanon Baptist Church, PO Box 344, Lively, 22507.

The service will be held on December 31st at Lebanon Baptist Church in Alfonso at 1:00 with visitation an hour before the service. Burial will follow the service in the church cemetery.

On-line from Currie Funeral Home and Crematory, Kilmarnock, Virginia