

Ray Rainbolt

May 26, 1955 - June 30, 2016

Ray Rainbolt was born May 26, 1955 in Stillwater, Oklahoma. He was the son of Sam Raborn and Theda Jean (Bostian) Rainbolt. Ray moved frequently with his family during his early childhood residing in Stillwater, Drumright, Cushing, and Hominy. His family moved to Cleveland when Ray was in the seventh grade completing his education here graduating from Cleveland High School in 1973. Ray was extremely active in sports earning All-State Honors in football, basketball and baseball. Ray set many records during his time in school and is one of the top 10 highest scorers in Cleveland basketball history. He was drafted by the Texas Rangers in the 12th round of the Major League Baseball Draft in 1973. Ray was later united in marriage to his high school sweetheart, Donna Lee Blake on February 2, 1974, in Cleveland, Oklahoma.

Ray began his professional baseball career pitching for a Texas Rangers minor league team. He played A ball with the Gastonia Rangers in North Carolina and the Lynchburg Hillcats. Ray then moved up to AA ball in San Antonio; playing for the Dodgers in 1976. He finished his career with the Tulsa Drillers, pitching for them from 1977 through 1979. A shoulder injury concluded his promising career in the major leagues. When playing baseball in Oklahoma, Ray was employed in Barnsdall at the Bareco Plant, at one time the world's largest manufacturer of microcrystalline waxes. In 1980, Ray and Donna returned to Cleveland and he began working in the oil fields of Oklahoma, working for Brown Brothers Drilling for many years. He then accepted employment at Word Industries where he worked as a pipefitter for a short time before being promoted to foreman then later as superintendent. For the past thirty plus years Ray has traveled the United States working for Universal Plant Services, a comprehensive service provider for the energy industry, providing project management, installation, maintenance and repair services for rotating and fixed equipment for daily maintenance requirements, turnarounds, and capital projects spanning the United States. At the time of his death Ray was serving as an inspector for Universal Plant Services on a project in Iowa.

Ray truly enjoyed life to the fullest at every moment. His love for sports continued throughout his life as he was an avid Oklahoma Sooner, Oklahoma Thunder, and NASCAR fan. He especially enjoyed playing golf and was responsible for encouraging several of his friends to become interested in playing also. Ray always looked forward to when he would return to Oklahoma to play a round of golf with those he loved. Ray was a very hard worker and believed doing everything at 110%. Ray never seemed to meet a stranger, making friends with everyone he met; he would often provide those strangers with things they needed and would always respond "they needed that worse than I do." It was known by everyone that if you even mentioned you needed something and Ray was aware of it, sooner or later you would have it. Ray was notorious for always remembering names and faces of those he was introduced to. Ray also felt everyone needed a second chance at things and never placed judgment on others. He had a bleeding heart for all animals. Most of all in life Ray loved his family and friends and will be greatly missed.

Ray passed away on Thursday, June 30, 2016, in Iowa City, Iowa at the age of sixty-one years.

Survivors are his wife Donna of the home; two children Heath Rayburn Rainbolt of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Chelsea Claire Ward and her husband Dustin of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; one sister Sheryl Thatcher and her husband Mike of Stillwater, Oklahoma; two grandchildren Lindsey and Chandler Ward, soon to be granddaughter Brinkley Ray Ward, mother in law Sybil Blake of Cleveland, Oklahoma; sister in law Debbie Baldwin of Kingfisher, Oklahoma; brother in law David Blake and his wife Linda of Cleveland, Oklahoma and numerous other relatives and friends that will mourn his passing. Ray was preceded in death by his parents Theda and Sam Rainbolt; grandparents Marvel and Harvey Bostian and father in law Frank Blake

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, July 7, 2016, at 2:00 pm in the Western Heights Baptist Church with Rev. David Head and Rev. Sandy Bach officiating. Lifelong friend Mike Whaley will eulogize the life of Ray. Committal services will follow in the Woodland Cemetery under the direction of Chapman-Black Funeral Home. Friends may share a memory with the family on Ray's memorial website at www.chapman-black.com.

Pallbearers will include Leonard Davidson, Dustin Ward, Brad Weldon, Ronnie Holland, Martin Llamas and Kenny Blevins. Honorary pallbearers will be David Blake, Mike Thatcher, and Brian Jenkins.

Cemetery



WOODLAND CEMETERY

800 Miami NW,
Cleveland, OK 74020

Events



VISITATION

10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Chapman-Black
Funeral Home 108
West Delaware, P.O.
Box 74, Cleveland, OK
74020



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

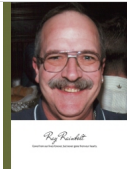
2:00 PM

Western Heights
Baptist Church 200
North Gilbert,
Cleveland, OK 74020

Tribute Wall

C

Chapman-Black Funeral Home



Tribute Guestbook

Page through this beautiful photo guestbook, custom-created for the Rainbolt family by the Chapman-Black Funeral Home.

[View Now](#)

Additional books can be purchased as a keepsake.

C

Cris

My sincere sympathies for the loss of your dear loved one. Precious memories are yours to keep. Stay close to friends and family for support and draw strength from prayer during this time - Prov 17:17; Rom 12:12

F

Funeral Home Owner



Life Journey Celebration Video

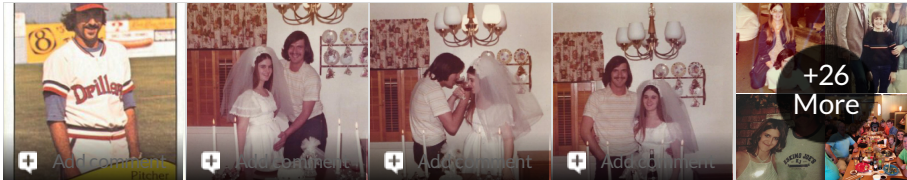
This Tribute Video was custom created for the family of Ray Rainbolt by Chapman-Black Funeral Home.

[Watch Now](#)

Additional DVDs can be purchased as a keepsake.

F

Funeral Home Owner



Vitginia DavidsJacob N

Sincere heartfelt sympathy to Donna and family for the passing of Ray! Prayers for God's peace and comfort during this difficult time. Virginia Davidson, San Antonio, Texas



"Candle of Warmth"

was lit in memory of Ray Rainbolt

[❤ Light a candle](#)

Show your support by giving a symbol of remembrance

D

Dawn Bowling Davis

My deepest sympathies for Donna and the family. Sending prayers for peace and comfort in Rays passing.

R**Renee Holloway**

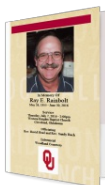
Our deepest condolences to the Rainbolt Family and Blake Family. Sending prayers for comfort in your time of loss. Johnny and Renee Holloway

**"Candle of Peace"**

was lit in memory of Ray Rainbolt

♥ [Light a candle](#)

Show your support by giving a symbol of remembrance

C**Chapman-Black Funeral Home****Program Folder**

This custom program design was created by the Chapman-Black Funeral Home for the Rainbolt Family.

[Print](#)

P**Patricio Acosta**

I met Ray in Feb.2015 on my first job with a new company, and Ray was as real as it gets. In the short amount of time I had the pleasure of knowing him he changed me and he didn't even know it. I'm here where I am because Ray had the faith in me to do my job. I will always remember Ray and what he has meant to me!!! My heart hurts and my condolences to Ray's family.

**Tony Barraza**

I am deeply saddened by the news of Ray passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

**"Candle of Peace"**

was lit in memory of Ray Rainbolt

♥ [Light a candle](#)

Show your support by giving a symbol of remembrance

S**Sandy Fickel**

Really a FINE man and a wonderful person to grow up with, just like those class mates before us that have left too soon, whether it was an illness or an accident it's heart breaking every time.

M**Marilyn Blair**

Sincere condolences to Ray and Donna's family.

S

Sonny Chism

RIP ole buddy. Ghost rider!!! I hear you telling me to go to channel 9 and I'm thinking about all the good times and bad times we had on the many jobs we worked together. Also all the times you stabled my paper work together, I understand the reasoning behind that, you were trying to teach me to have patience!! LOL we will catch up to one another again on the next big one. Prayers to Donna and all the family.

K

Kelli Scarbrough

I'm so very sorry about the loss of Ray. My condolences to Donna and the rest of his family.

S

Stacy Sheffield

I met Ray shortly after I started with Piping Engineering and I was a scared material Expeditor that had great people like Ray that helped me learn the business and become the experienced person I am today. Still remember Ray telling Sonny Chism "Hey Sonny go to channel 11" not just once but multiple times. We shared the same love for baseball and Ray got to actually live the dream most of us only had everyday in the yard or through high school of being drafted by a MLB club. We shared a lot of the same passions NASCAR, Golf, and last but not least Sooner Football. God gained a good hand in heaven, and most have had a TAR that was going south that he needed to call in the "A" Team for or maybe he needed some heat brought in from the bullpen. Sooner Nation lost a loyal fan but I bet he will leading some of the Sooner Magic from upstairs. Donna and family I hope you can feel all the love from across the nation because Ray touched many people over his career and there is many of those praying for all of you. Lots of the folks Ray touched Donna your cooking definitely helped him for sure! I say Boomer.... You say.... Sooner! RIP brother Ray I Love You and will miss you but will never forget you! Peace Hope Love SS



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was lit in memory of Ray Rainbolt

❤ Light a candle

Show your support by giving a symbol of remembrance

T

Tom Dyer

Heartbroken for Donna and the rest of her family. Ray and I go way back to when he lived in Hominy. His dad would take us to the baseball field and even then he threw hard. I had the luxury of catching him. Miss him even though we were out of touch for several years.

S

Sonya Morton Magness

Sincere condolences to Ray's family. I only knew him when he was a young boy, but I heard he grew into a fine man. Sending prayers for my friend, Sheryl, and his family.



"Hands In Prayer"

was given in memory of Ray Rainbolt



Leave a symbol

Show your support by giving a symbol of remembrance

L

Lori Hamilton

I was so shocked and sad to hear of Ray's passing. I'm heartbroken for all of you. He was always such a nice guy. My prayers are with all his family and friends.



"Hands In Prayer"

was given in memory of Ray Rainbolt



Leave a symbol

Show your support by giving a symbol of remembrance