



Rachanell Delano Daniels

November 7, 2018

Rachanell Delano Daniels passed away at his home on Wednesday November 7, 2018. He was born to the late Mary Eva Daniels and James Daniels, Sr., on July 19, 1952. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Rosa Strahan Daniels and Percy Daniels, Charles Wesley Alfred, Sr. and Eva Mary Alfred, and his uncle Warren Daniels.

Widely known as “Ray,” he was a larger-than-life figure who transformed all who encountered him. Blessed with an intuitive mind, Ray discerned people’s needs and would offer his help and support to anyone. He possessed a generous spirit, and he gifted his time and intelligence to all who knew him. He was a natural leader who positively impacted the lives of others.

Ray possessed an amazingly clever, sometimes wry, often self-deprecating sense of humor. He loved to tease, good-naturedly, and was relentless in joshing his friends. He delivered many humorous observations, but he also welcomed being the punch line in others’ jokes. Ray’s love of music was well known. His collection included an eclectic mix of musical styles from around the world. An avid sports fan, Ray loved his Saints, the University of Alabama’s Crimson Tide and professional boxing.

A highly decorated soldier, Ray’s valor during the Vietnam War earned him a purple heart, a bronze star and the respect of those who served with him. He was honorably discharged after eleven years of service to his country.

Ray excelled in a number of ventures after his military service. He was an Operations Manager for Waste Management and is best known for his work in

the event production community of New Orleans and around the country. His positions included site services supervisor for the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival (Festival Productions, Inc.) and Essence Music Festival (Essence Communications, Inc.). He held the positions for many years before becoming site manager and logistics coordinator for Essence Music Festival. He also worked in operations and logistics for Solomon Group Ventures, LLC, and most recently as operations manager for Pyramid Audio Productions, Inc. From 2013 until his death, Ray owned and operated Daniels Logistics LLC, a transportation and logistics company.

Ray is survived by his wife, Cara Harrison Daniels; stepchildren Christian Scott and Kiel Adrian Scott; brothers James Daniels (and his wife Margo), Seth Daniels, and Stephen Daniels; uncles Charles W. Alfred, Jr. (and his wife Mary Francis), and Anthony Alfred (and his late wife Victoria); aunts Isabell Gaskin (and her late husband Bruce), and Dora Jane Jackson (and her late husband Emile); mother-in-law Herreast J. Harrison (and the late Donald Harrison, Sr.); sisters-in law, Cherice Harrison-Nelson and Michele Harrison; brother-in-law Donald Harrison, Jr.(and wife Mary); and, from his previous marriage to Deborah Norman, stepchildren Emanuel Smith, III and Eshantii Smith-Trask; step grandchildren, Emanuel Smith IV, Dallis Smith, Zorah Trask; and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, and many, many friends.

A celebration of Rachanell "Ray" Daniels' life will be held on Thursday, November 15, 2018 at Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, 504-822-7162, Visitation: 8:00am, Service: 10:00am Interment on Friday, November 16, 2018 at Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery, 34888 Grantham College Drive Slidell, LA 70460. Please call 504-579-4356 after Wednesday, November 14, 2018 for time of interment.

Arrangements by D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home. Please visit www.rhodesfuneral.com to sign the guestbook.

Cemetery Details

Southeast LA. Veterans Cemetery

34888 Grantham College Dr, Slidell, LA
70460
Slidell, LA 70460

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 15. 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Rhodes Funeral Home - Washington Avenue
3933 Washington Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70125
(504) 822-7162
<https://www.rhodesfuneral.com>

Service

NOV 15. 10:00 AM (CT)

Rhodes Funeral Home - Washington Avenue
3933 Washington Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70125
(504) 822-7162
<https://www.rhodesfuneral.com>

Burial

NOV 16 (CT)

Southeast LA. Veterans Cemetery
34888 Grantham College Dr, Slidell, LA 70460
Slidell, LA 70460

Tribute Wall

CS

“ All love to Ray's family and friends. Ray was the best! His warm greetings will live forever in our hearts. I feel honored and grateful to have known him.

Christian Smith - November 15, 2018 at 08:32 PM

RK

“ Ray and Cara moved into the apt upstairs from me shortly after I moved to NOLA. I couldn't have asked for better neighbors, friendly , kind , the type who look out fir others in the neighborhood. I quickly discover Ray and I worked in the business and eventually we worked on some of the same gigs. Working with Ray or indirectly for Ray was always a pleasure. He brought kindness and laughter to every “sack of nuts” (honorable stagehand title) he met and to everyone else too. My heart goes out to Cara and all of his family and friends. Rest in Peace Ray, you are sorely missed

Rebecca King - November 15, 2018 at 02:11 PM

-F

“ -The Festival Family purchased the Heavenly Light for the family of Rachanell Delano Daniels.



-The Festival Family - November 15, 2018 at 12:17 PM

SS

“ My heart felt prayers go out to Rachanells' family. May God Bless you with his loving memories. A St. Tammany High classmate.
Susan K. Smith

Susan Smith - November 15, 2018 at 07:00 AM

VT

“ *The ladies at the walking track would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Cara and the family. Ray was a kind and gentle soul. We enjoyed our walks and talks with Ray. Ray possessed a wealth of knowledge, as a result we talked about everything from the Bible, local/current events and politics. Ray truly will be missed.*

The Westminster Walkers

Vernendell Taylor - November 14, 2018 at 02:19 PM

MJ

“ *We send all our love to the family near and far. Our lives were much improved by knowing Ray, an amazing man and the best operator to ever turn a key. When we think about RD our tears are always interrupted by uproarious laughter. The stories are endless. We decided they got bored upstairs and called Ray home to liven up the party. Papa said "wow, you know them fellas be rollin' up there right now!" Much love. Papa Lou and Michelle*

mjnugent - November 14, 2018 at 11:21 AM



Renee Ford

Heaven has a lively bunch!!! Go for Ray... Go for Jaaayyy Teee! This is Dwight go ahead!!! My heart smiles.

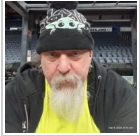
Renee Ford - November 17, 2018 at 10:50 AM

VW

“ Heartfelt condolences are sent to Ray's wife, family and his family of friends. For over 40 years Ray has been my Big Brother. My go to guy at Jazz Fest, Essence and he'd check in to make sure we were straight at Community Book Center. He made everyone feel special...that's just how SPECIAL RAY WAS! We'll miss you but never forget your heart of gold and laughter



Vera Warren Williams - November 14, 2018 at 08:17 AM



“ Ray was always the smile at the dome for Essence, the one time I walked in and he wasn't smiling was when his foot got run over.... And that's when I turned around and left.....but I always love seeing Ray...his SMILE was infectious.... RIP BROTHER We ALL love and miss you...

Chad Solomon - November 14, 2018 at 02:03 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Rachanell Delano Daniels.



November 13, 2018 at 05:18 PM

RR

“ I was glad Ray made it back to Newport after a long absence, this summer. I'll definitely miss your infectious laughter along with your heart warming smile. My puppy loved Ray and wanted to go home with him back to NOLA, she could sense the gentle kindness in him. RIP My Friend.

Rick Romero - November 13, 2018 at 04:23 PM

SC

“ Ray made a point of making mere mortals like myself feel alive and special. When my son Christopher met him for the first time at age 16, he said to me as Ray drove off in his Gator , "Hey Dad who was that guy? He's really friendly!" When Christopher's life was taken suddenly; Ray approached me at Jazzfest, put his hand on my shoulder and offered soft spoken hope like no one could (I'm crying right now). Bless you Ray Daniels; you inspired me to be better.....
Scott Caddell

scott caddell - November 13, 2018 at 10:11 AM

AB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Ray and his family. I met Ray while he was teaching me how to drive a semi tractor. We had to take it to Lafayette and as we were working for Roland we were flying back in a private plane and I will never forget the look on Ray's face. Needless to say he did not enjoy flying in confined spaces. RIP Ray, you will be sorely missed.

Adam Brazy - November 13, 2018 at 06:00 AM

CB

“ Courtney Bryan purchased the Sweet Tenderne
s for the family of Rachanell Delano Daniels.



Courtney Bryan - November 12, 2018 at 06:53 PM