



Mr. John "Phillip" Ray

April 1, 2022

Mr. John "Phillip" Ray, passed away unexpectedly at his residence at the age of 58. He was born in Jackson, MS to parents John & Mary Ray, who have preceded him in death. He leaves to cherish his memories, brother, Richard Ray (Bobbie); sisters Susan McBrayer (Donald) and Joan Cox (Joel). He also leaves numerous nieces, nephews and lifelong friends spanning from the Atlanta area to Prattville.

Phillip graduated from JP Tech in June of 1983, where he obtained his degree in Cosmetology. Eager to begin his career, he started out in his hometown of Prattville. After a few short years he felt the call of the big city and decided to move to Atlanta, GA, where he quickly set up shop at Junko Hair Salon, in Buckhead. He quickly made a name for himself and decided to take his clients with him into the journey of opening his own shop. It was with great pride that he introduced the greater Atlanta area to his shop, "Lather." Phillip was a free spirit and lived a life of adventure, that most dream of. This adventurous life included a love of flying kites, which led him to open "Piedmont Kites," so that he could share that magic with others.

He learned carpentry from his father, and he used that talent spending tireless hours attending to every detail as he remodeled his home in Atlanta. He also spent tireless hours restoring his 1973 Mercury Cougar. There wasn't anything that he couldn't accomplish once he set his mind to it. His hobbies and talents included photography, astronomy and traveling. We will miss all of his many talents but most of all, we will miss his kind, loving spirit, his smile that lit up

the world and his tight lingering hugs.

Phillip's lifelong friends, Tracy & Katherine Coker will be holding a Celebration of Life Ceremony in the Atlanta area, at a later date.

The family wishes to extend their most heartfelt thanks to everyone for the outpouring of love and support during this most difficult time. There will be a private memorial service for the family. Everyone is encouraged to add your special memories and pictures to his memorial wall. As long as our memories live on, we are never truly departed.

Brookside Funeral Home, Crematorium & Memorial Gardens of Millbrook, AL directing.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. John "Phillip" Ray*

October 09, 2023 at 12:36 PM



“ *Mr. John "Phillip" Ray*

October 07, 2023 at 11:21 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. John "Phillip" Ray.*



April 22, 2022 at 02:46 PM



“ *My condolences to Phillip's family and his friends.*

I met Phillip once when he came to Donalsonville, GA, to visit a friend that we both knew, and he was really a cool and charismatic guy. I know my friend, (Darrell) has been in shock as well as very sad since hearing the passing of Phillip as they spoke pretty regularly.

Phillip will be greatly missed and cherished, and his memories will live on forever in the hearts of all of those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

My condolences again to his family and friends. Death cannot kill that which never dies. - Bradley



Bradley - April 13, 2022 at 08:07 PM

DO

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Darrell lee Owens - April 13, 2022 at 07:32 PM

DO

“ Phillip I'm crying as I write this, Miss you so bad! My best friend since age 23 we turned Atlanta upside down together!! We would call each other and stay on phone for hours talking about stupid stuff! Laughing at stupid stuff, I'm not sure how I'm going to do this without you!! Miss you so badly. You will always be my very best friend and brother!! I love you so much!! Fly high like all your kites! Forever your friend,
Darrell Lee Owens

Darrell Lee Owens - April 13, 2022 at 07:03 PM

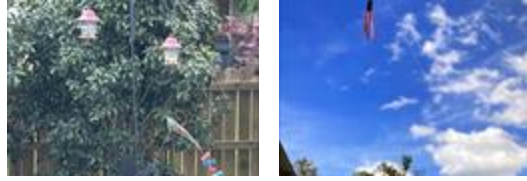
KR

“ Phillip started cutting my hair when I was about 4 years old at the Rich's at Lenox Square. He then moved over to Junko Hair studio and my family followed him over to the new shop. We followed him with every move after that up until he retired. I have many great memories of Phillip over the 35 years I knew him. From getting my hair done to the kite shop and my kites to going for drinks and food. He is going to missed!!

Katie Rogers - April 12, 2022 at 10:57 PM

SM

“ Added this Silhouette to my back yard
“Little Boy Flying Kite” in memory of Phil



Sister/susan McBrayer - April 12, 2022 at 03:28 PM



“ Comments from former hair salon clients:

T.H. Dec 19, 2017

Phillip Ray is a master at what he does. My haircut always looks amazing and I always get tons of compliments.

E.L. Aug 20, 2016

Phillip Ray has been my stylist and has done my color for years. I consistently have complete strangers stop and ask "who does your hair."

P.W May 16, 2015

Phillip Ray is the most talented and caring stylist I have found in 40 years of moving around the US! How lucky I feel to have found him.

D.G.

2022

Phillip did my hair color for 20 years. He was so good at what he did that when I moved to another state for work – I would fly back to Atlanta every month just to get my hair done!

He was a brilliant photographer, (he did my website) he could build a deck, grow beautiful flowers, refurbish an old car, fly a 62-inch stunt kite (see blog below) sew a set of curtains, lay a granite countertop and configure any computer with ease. I remember the day in 2001 when he was giddy with delight as he cut off my waist length hair - to a short crop around my ears. He had been trying to convince me for a while that my hair would look better, if it were short. I said, ok, but now you don't get to charge me as much!– smile.

He was one of the smartest people I ever knew and the only person in the world who knew all of my secrets.....I will miss his distinctly raspy "radio" voice, great hugs and terribly clever wit.

Blog from Atlanta Event Photography archives - AUGUST 2015

*ATLANTANS FAVORITE WAYS TO STAY ACTIVE - Atlanta ...
Piedmont Kites owner Phillip Ray flies a 62-inch foil stunt kite, which
requires dual lines for steering, at Piedmont Park. (Was unable to
access the photo)*

Forever your friend. dg

d - April 11, 2022 at 08:20 PM

GA

*Phillip was the best...the best hair stylist and caring person--and he
was a man of many talents and interests. I followed him wherever he
landed after leaving Junco's salon. Visits to Phillip were more than
perfunctory maintenance occasions. They were times spent with a
friend.*

Gail - May 23, 2022 at 12:58 PM

TC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tracy Coker - April 11, 2022 at 06:12 PM

TC

My bud for 41 years of our lives..I love you Phil

Tracy Coker - April 13, 2022 at 04:06 PM

TC

“ One of my favorite photos ...My bud and me looonnnngggg time ago
❤️❤️❤️



Tracy Coker - April 11, 2022 at 06:06 PM

SM

“ We have so many wonderful memories and photos.
Fly High sweet brother Phil ☐❤️😘



Sister/susan McBrayer - April 11, 2022 at 05:32 PM

CS

Precious memories! I am so thankful that I got to meet Phil at the lake.
Love you all and lifting you all up in prayer.

Carol Snowden - April 11, 2022 at 06:28 PM

DO

Phillip I'm going to miss you so much, this is so hard for me to understand. My best friend since age 23!! The one I always called to tell you how my day was, or if I needed a laugh, I would call you we would stay on the phone for hours laughing!! I'm not sure how to get threw my days now without you! I love you and miss you so much! You will always be my best friend!!
Love Darrell Lee Owens ❤️

Darrell Lee Owens - April 13, 2022 at 06:53 PM