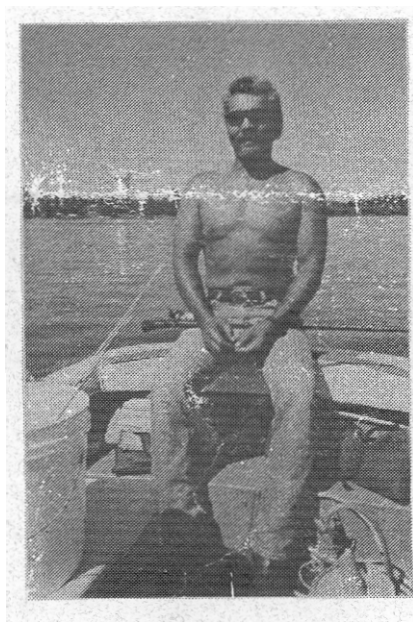


**IN LOVING MEMORY**



**DOUGLAS MARION RAY**  
**June 25, 1950 – February 22, 2000**

Monday, February 28, 2000  
Veteran's National Cemetery  
Fort Snelling  
Bloomington, MN

## **PALLBEARERS**

**Lyman Myers, Jr.  
Terry Dillard  
Ernest P. Johnson, III  
Commodore Oden**

**Ed Whitman  
James Hughes  
Irvin Brewin  
James Taylor**

## **HONORARY PALLBEARERS**

**Henry Johnson  
Martin Weddington  
Cleveland Ray, IV  
Milargro Wilford**

**Jon Kulstad  
Joseph Ray, Jr.  
Fredrick Ray  
Jon Ray**

**The Family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many comforting messages, floral tributes, food, prayers and many other expressions of kindness and concern evidenced at this time in thought and deed. A more personal acknowledgement will be made at a later date.**

## ***I'M FREE***

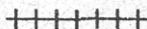
***Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took God's hand when I heard the call;  
I turned my back and left it all.***

***I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to work, or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that place at the close of day.***

***If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Ah yes, these things, I too, will miss.***

***Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.***

***Perhaps my time seemed all too brief;  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me –  
God wanted me now, God set me free.***



***God saw you were getting weary, so He did what he thought best,  
He came and stood beside you and whispered, "Come and rest."  
You bade no one a last farewell, not even a goodbye,  
You were gone before we knew it and only God knows why.***

## ***OBITUARY***

Mr. Douglas Marion Ray, oldest son of Cleveland and Odelia (Nee McClinton) Ray, Sr., was born June 25, 1950.

He was baptized at St. Peter Claver and attended St. Peter Parochial School until the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. He was very proud to be an altar boy, often being called upon to help at High Masses.

After moving to Maplewood in 1960, he attended Presentation of BVM and went on to Hill High School. Taking academic courses that included Latin, he excelled in track, specifically discus throwing, and earned his letters in wrestling, winning the "W.L. Lewis" Award for "fastest pins" in the 1968 state championship.

Doug was a Vietnam Veteran of Company C (Charlie) Rangers 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry [REDACTED] Airborne. He served two years in Vietnam. Upon returning stateside, he attended school at St. Paul TVI taking plumbing courses. A year later he decided to become a pipefitter. Doug was the third Black pipefitter in the State of Minnesota. For the past 26 years, he has been a brother in Local #455 Pipefitters and Steamfitters, working on various buildings throughout the Twin Cities.

He lives to cherish their loving memories: sister, Patricia Ray; brother, Cleveland Ray, Jr.; grandmother, Henrietta Williams; great uncle, Henry Johnson; aunts, Geneva Luster, Pauline Wallace, Theresia (Talmadge) Carey; uncles, Paul and Joseph Ray; godchildren, Leslie and Frederick Ray/Redmond and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, friends and brothers of Local #455.