

Raymond W Harrison
1928 – 2009



Ray and Marval

Raymond W. "Ray" Harrison, Obituary, Northern Wyoming Daily News, Worland, Wyoming, May 9, 2009, page 2.

TEN SLEEP --- Long-time Washakie County resident Raymond Wyatt Harrison, Jr., 81, died Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at the Washakie Medical Center in Worland after a long battle with cancer.

Ray was born in Shreveport, La., on Jan. 4, 1928 to Elsie Cornelia Harrison and Raymond Wyatt Harrison, Sr. The family moved to Fort Worth, Texas, in 1930, living there until his father's employment prompted a move to Nacogdoches, Texas in 1936.

He graduated from Nacogdoches High School in 1944, at age 16. Since the United States Navy would not accept him prior to age 17, Ray spent the next eight months working at a defense plant in Lufkin, making pinion gears for World War II M4 Sherman tanks. He then enrolled in Stephen F. Austin State University and completed his first semester of college. At age 17, Ray enlisted in the Navy, serving as a Corpsman until receiving an Honorable Discharge in 1946. He returned to college and graduated with B.S. Degrees in Mathematics, Social Studies and Physics. In 1964, Ray also earned an M.S. Degree in Mathematics at the University of Utah. In 1950 he was employed by a finance company in Fort Worth, Texas.

In December of 1950, he met his best friend, Marval Crall --- an absolute "marvel" and the blessing of his life. They were united in marriage on Sept. 2, 1951 at a chapel on the campus of Texas Women's University in Denton. They visited Marval's grandparents, Dora and Thurston Doyle, during the summer of

1955 at their ranch in Ten Sleep Canyon, which is now known as the Circle J Ranch. He knew upon returning home that moving to Ten Sleep was going to be a priority in his life.

In January of 1956, they moved to Wyoming. That fall, he accepted a teaching position with Washakie County School in Worland, the beginning of 31 rewarding years working with young people. During those years he taught mathematics, physics, aviation, and electronics; later serving as Gifted and Talented Coordinator and Adult Education/Staff Development Coordinator.

Ray was also a commercial pilot and flight instructor, instituting the first high school aviation course in Wyoming. In 1960 they bought a ranch north of Worland and raised horses, cows and kids.

In 1968 Ray felt called to be more committed in his Christian life, becoming involved in the lay ministry of preaching. In 1981 he was licensed by the First Baptist Church to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which he did at every opportunity.

After retiring in 1986, Ray served on the Washakie Co. School Board for three years. He was then elected as a Republican to serve as the Washakie County Representative in the Wyoming House of Representatives for eight years, serving as Chairman of the Transportation Committee until 1998. Ray's last public service was a five-year appointment to the State Aeronautics Commission. He moved to Ten Sleep in 1998, where he lived until he went home to be with his Lord.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Ray is survived by a family that brought him love, tears and joy --- his companion of 57 years, Marval Harrison of Ten Sleep; his son Doyle (Kathleen) Harrison of Hudson, Colo.; his daughters Janelle (Dave) Weeks of Casper and Reesa (Brian) Florum of Laramie; and five beautiful grandchildren---Charlie and Burke Florum; Barbara, Elizabeth, and Megan Harrison.

Memorials may be sent to Foundation for Christian Discipleship, 810 N. Main St. #299, Spearfish, SD 57783.

His funeral service will be held on Monday, May 11 at 3 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Worland with Pastor Pete Kuhn of Greybull officiating.

Burial will take place at the Ten Sleep Cemetery in Ten Sleep, Wyoming at p.m.

Veile Mortuary of Worland is assisting the family with the arrangements.