

Raymond Joseph Davis, Jr. was born in Providence, RI, on June 13, 1935, the eldest of seven children born to Raymond J., Sr. and Teresa (Serydyski) Davis. He grew up in Providence and attended school there. His unwavering dedication to his country was evident through his ten years of proud service in the United States Air Force, where he bravely served during the Korean Conflict, the Cuban Crisis, and the Vietnam War.

In 1959, Raymond Jr. began a new chapter of his life by marrying Shirley LaRacco, with whom he welcomed two children: Lisa and Kyle.

Throughout his life, Ray found solace and passion in playing guitar, traveling across the United States to share his gift of country melodies. In the early 1970s, he moved to Nashville, TN, to get into the music business.


After traveling working with several bands, Ray met Karen (Bakeberg) Swigerd, who he married on July 28, 1976, leading him to make his permanent home in Minnesota. Along with Karen, Ray gained two sons and a daughter: Mark, Margo, and Matt. While living in Minnesota, he found employment at Sears while still pursuing his musical passions.

Ray and Karen moved to Wyoming, where Ray ventured into the sign design business. After 20 years in business, Ray and Karen decided to move back to Rochester, MN, and eventually settled in Austin, MN, to be closer to their family. Ray's commitment to community and camaraderie was evident through his active membership in the American Legion, VFW, and the Elks Club.

His musical endeavors were complemented by his talent as an artist and an innate knack for craftsmanship, making him a "jack of all trades" in the eyes of many.

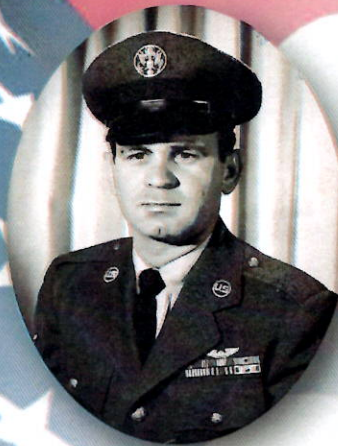
Surviving Ray are his wife, Karen of Austin, MN; children: Kyle Davis of Pleasant Grove, UT; Mark (Loretta) Swigerd of Ortonville, MN; and Matthew (Kari) Swigerd of Austin, MN; 11 grandchildren: Natashaia (Peterson) McDill, Ty Davis, Justin Davis, Karianna Wiegman, Brandon Swigerd, Joshua Berg, Nathan Berg, Nick Gores, Zoe Swigerd, Makiah Sandberg, and Abigail Swigerd; numerous great-grandchildren; many great-great-grandchildren; and sisters: Carol Abbruzese, Donna Larson, Judy Guertin, and Terri Doonan.

Preceding him in death were his parents; daughters: Lisa Peterson and Margo Berg; and brothers: Jackie Davis and Billy Davis.

 **Mundwiler & Larson**
Funeral Homes



In Loving Memory



Raymond Davis, Jr.

1935 - 2024



God saw you getting tired
and a cure was not to be;

So He put his arms around you
and whispered,

“Come with Me.”

With tearful eyes we watched you suffer
and saw you fade away.

Although we **LOVED YOU DEARLY**
we could not make you stay.

A **GOLDEN HEART** stopped beating
hard working hands at rest.

God broke our hearts to prove to us

He only takes the best!

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Raymond Joseph Davis, Jr.

WHO WAS BORN

June 13, 1935

Providence, Rhode Island

AND CALED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME

September 19, 2024

Austin, Minnesota

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Thursday, October 24, 2024 - 10:30 a.m.

Mundwiler & Larson Funeral Home

Ortonville, Minnesota

OFFICIANT

Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett

MILITARY HONORS

American Legion Gertje Van Lith Post #229

Big Stone City, South Dakota

INURNMENT

Mound Cemetery

Ortonville, Minnesota

APPRECIATION

Ray's family is grateful for your attendance at this service.

Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated. Following the graveside service, please join the family for lunch and fellowship at the Big Stone City Community Center.