



Thomas Ray Raper

October 21, 1938 - April 14, 2015

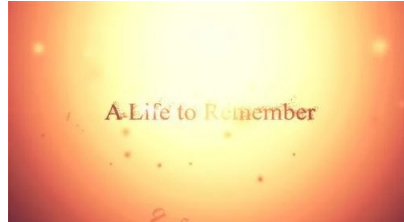
RICHMOND, Ind. - Thomas Ray Raper, 76, went to be with the Lord on April 14th, at Holy Cross Hospital, in the year of our Lord 2015. He was born in Richmond, Indiana, on October 21, 1938, and was residing with his wife of 46 years, Suzanne Raper, in Ft Lauderdale, Florida. At every opportunity available, Tom was always ready to share the gospel with someone, even taking the opportunity going down the elevator. He was a wonderful, compassionate, and caring soul winner. He was deeply interested in everyone, no matter who it was, or what stage in their life. The Lord led many people into his life, because of his boldness in his witness for God. Tom believed deeply in Proverbs 11:30 that he that winneth souls is wise. The Lord gave Tom many opportunities to speak to churches and colleges to encourage everyone to steer a path toward the Lord. Tom prayed everyday for wisdom over his business and all aspects of life for the Lord to guide him. As James 1:5 says, "If any one of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all liberally." Tom followed the Lord with great humbleness doing the work that God called him to do. As it says in Revelations 13:14 "Your works do follow you". Tom was a great philanthropist, and his desire was to bring glory to the Lord. Tom was honored to be asked to serve on many boards including: 1) The University of the Cumberlands (Formerly Cumberland College), Williamsburg, Kentucky, where he received his Honorary Doctorate Degree, 2) Crown College, Powell, Tennessee, and 3) IU (Indiana University) East, Richmond, Indiana. Tom loved buying Christian books and Bibles so he could

give them away. He would carry an assortment in his trunk so that he would always be prepared to give at anytime. Whatever success Tom may have attained through his business, Tom Raper RVs and Mobile Homes, this paled in comparison to the joy that he had in the Lord. Tom felt rich in the Lord's work. Suzanne Raper wants to extend her most sincere, deepest gratitude for all the volunteers who visited and sat with Tom in the hospital, and all of those who cared and prayed for him. Tom is preceded in death by his parents, Ray and Mildred Raper, and his sister, Sally Fares. Tom's survivors are his wife, Suzanne Raper; sisters, Nancy Brookbank and Carolyn Runzer; and several nieces and nephews. Public visitation for Thomas Ray Raper will be from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, 2015, at Hillcrest Baptist Church, 3469 Hillcrest Road, Richmond, Indiana 47374. Funeral service will be at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, April 23, 2015, at Hillcrest Baptist Church with the burial immediately following in Earlham Cemetery. Officiating over the services are: Tim Schelling, Northern Kentucky Baptist Church in Lakeside Park, Kentucky, followed by Ronald Hon, Pastor of Lighthouse Baptist Church of Marion, Indiana, and closing with John Collier, Pastor of Parkview Baptist Church in Waco, Texas. Arrangements are being handled by Doan & Mills Funeral Home, 790 National Road West, Richmond. In lieu of flowers, please donate to: Tom Raper Foundation, Inc., 43 South 8th Street, Richmond, IN 47374. Condolences may be sent to the family via the guest book at www.doanmillsfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Doan & Mills Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas Ray Raper*



Doan & Mills Funeral Home - April 14, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *Dearest Suzanne, I have fond memories of visiting with you and Tom when I was growing up. He was so friendly and filled with love for people. I admire his commitment to sharing his love of God with others. Sending love and prayers to you. Love, Diane*

Diane Charles Fell - June 11, 2015 at 05:05 AM

DB

“ *Suzanne & Family- I'm very sorry to hear of Tom's passing from this life. Our loss is his gain. Our deepest sympathy to you and yours.*

David Boyer - April 25, 2015 at 08:54 PM

JB

“ We were deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Tom Raper. Being his cousin, I spent many summers on Mildred and Ray's farm with Tom, Nancy and Sally. Many stories to tell and fond memories. Tom was a true man of God. Every time we would come to visit from Texas, he would bear testimony of his faith. His contribution to the City of Richmond and the learning institutions speaks volumes of his good heart and caring spirit. We will miss him very much. Our thoughts and prayer are with the Raper family through these sad times.

John W. Bowen - April 25, 2015 at 07:48 PM

BC

“ We were sorry to hear about Tom but were unable to attend the callings because Anna recently had knee replacement surgery but you were in our prayers. May God be close to you each day. Bob and Anna Ruth and Amy

Bob and Anna Christensen - April 23, 2015 at 05:17 PM

MG

“ very sorry to hear of tom's passingwe were just talking of visiting the next time we visited with our son in fort lauderdale..... we'll always remember all the fun times we had putting the rally's together and how much tom enjoyed donna's pies

mike & donna gansert - April 23, 2015 at 02:12 PM

KS

“ Suzanne, Please accept our deepest sympathy in the passing of Tom. My husband and I met you both when you visited us at Greenview Calvary Tabernacle in Dayton, Ohio. We also had the privilege of hearing you sing at the Der Dutchman in Waynesville, Ohio when Bro Norm Livingston had his gospel singings. I remember us telling you and Tom about our dog Rascal. When he passed we had him embalmed and placed in a baby casket and vault. I remember how your husbands face lit up with approval. Please know that we are praying for you. Tom has made a safe landing on Heaven's golden shore. I'm sure one of the first to greet him was Bro Norm. If at any time you want to call and just talk please do so. Our phone number is: 937-836-4701. May God bless you as only He can. In His Love, Karen and Ron Stewart

Karen and Ron STEWART - April 23, 2015 at 12:12 PM

AW

“ Tina and Renee, So sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family at this time. What a great man Tom was!

Anne Wettig - April 23, 2015 at 11:15 AM

TF

“ Dear Uncle Tom, Thank you for being a friend, mentor, and father to me. Words cannot express how much I love you and appreciate you. You have made such an impact in my life. Rejoice in Heaven forever :) Love, Tina

Tina Fares - April 23, 2015 at 08:45 AM

TC

“ Suzanne-- We were saddened to hear the news about Tom's passing. We are praying for you. I think of you often with good memories of the times we got to spend together. God is with you...

The Burk Family--Tom, Lori, Joel & Carlye - April 21, 2015 at 09:48 PM

BP

“ You don't know me, but I read the Indianapolis Star obits each day since I'm a lifelong resident and know many people here. I was so moved by the obituary for Tom and how beautifully written it was about his Christian faith. So many obituaries have many earthly activities highlighted, which is wonderful, but to see such a life filled with a commitment to the Lord is really such a lovely tribute. Thank you for sharing Tom's life with us. It was very touching.

Betsy Paul - April 21, 2015 at 12:43 PM

SL

“ It was a blessing to know Tom Raper. Although the time was brief, we were so touched by his love for the Lord and desire to win souls and share Jesus Christ every chance he got. Today he is rejoicing with the angels and we who remain with the blessed hope will see him again. Our deepest sympathy and prayers go out to Suzanne and the Raper family.

Stan and Teresa Lay - April 19, 2015 at 10:44 PM

JF

“ To the family, I'm sorry for your loss. Now he will go and rest with THE LORD.

Joe Farr - April 18, 2015 at 10:12 AM

MM

“ Suzanne, My thoughts & prayers are with you during this very sad time. So sorry I cannot be with you, but you will be in my heart. Tom was a very special person & did many wonderful things for others during his life.

Mary Jane Miller - April 18, 2015 at 08:32 AM

JM

“ Suzanne, Nancy & Carolyn, We are sorry to hear about Tom love and prayers for all of you.

Jan and Marcia Montgomery - April 18, 2015 at 02:19 AM

BF

“ Carolyn... I am so sad to see the loss of Tom...he left such a wonderful legacy to so many. What a comfort to know he is now sitting at the feet of his Lord and Savior. May the peace that passes all understanding be with you and your family as you grieve his lost but celebrate his homecoming. Know I will be praying for you and your family...Belinda

Belinda [Wandersee] Fortunato - April 17, 2015 at 04:47 PM

DH

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.

David Lydick and the staff of Doan & Mills Funeral Home - April 17, 2015 at 04:42 PM