



## Ray Dempsey Sailsbery

April 14, 1930 - September 24, 2020

Ray Dempsey Sailsbery, 90, of Richland Center, WI passed away September 24, 2020 at home on his farm with his children and Shirley, his wife of 70 years, at his side. He was a devoted father and grandfather. He firmly held his children and grandchildren to high expectations, NEVER hesitated to share his opinion, and loved deeply.

Ray was born on April 14, 1930 in Decatur, IL, to Roy and Edith (Silveus) Sailsbery. He was the youngest of five children. He attended Ithaca and Richland Center High Schools, where he boxed and played football, basketball, and baseball. Ray enjoyed reminiscing about his school days, and all the games, adventures, and outstanding plays he was a part of.

After graduating from Richland Center High School, Ray married his high school homecoming queen Shirley Kinyon on November 19, 1949 in Decatur, IL. Together they built a loving home, anchored on faith in God and devotion to family, and raised three children, Stephen, Curtis, and Shona.

Ray had various early careers, working as a Decatur delivery driver for Schudel Bros Laundry and Dry Cleaning, farming on Kinyon and Liscum farms in Richland County, and delivering for Elm Grove Dairies. Though Ray is most known and admired for his many years of service as a Wisconsin State Trooper. In 1963, Ray traveled to Madison to complete the test to become a

State Dairy Inspector. As was his usual habit, he arrived markedly early for the scheduled Dairy Inspector exam. He learned he also had time to take the State Patrol exam while he waited. Thus began his 22 year career as a Wisconsin State Trooper.

You may have encountered Trooper Sailsbery on the highways of Richland County. He was a fair, respected officer in the community, always willing to answer a call and help someone in need. Ray practiced his duties with humility and respect; if he stopped you and issued you a ticket, it is highly likely you deserved it. He was a natural protector and defender, of his wife, his faith, his family, and anyone at risk. On occasion his family woke up to an unexpected guest brought home during the night who needed a warm place to recover or await a car repair. He impressed upon his children the importance of caring for the community and standing up against injustice and prejudice.

After retirement Ray enjoyed hours spent woodworking and remodeling the cottage on the farm. His bookshelves, hall trees, and other wood crafts sold out quickly at the Something Special store in Richland Center. In addition to his passion for woodworking, Ray was a dedicated fan of the Packers and Badgers, and an avid Ithaca sports fan. He attended Ithaca home games as long as he was physically able. Our family is so grateful to the Ithaca fans who saved him a spot, offered him a chair, and made sure he made it safely to his vehicle.

Ray was a lifelong member of the Free Methodist church, volunteering many hours on the building of the church, singing in the choir, teaching with Shirley, serving on committees, sponsoring a child's way to Sky Lodge Christian camp, and camping with family at Free Methodist family camps. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the family camp he held dearly, Sky Lodge Christian Camp in Montello.

Ray is survived by his wife Shirley, his children Stephen (Kim) Sailsbery, Curtis (Ardyth) Sailsbery, and Shona (Derin) Fowler; 13 grandchildren, Tera, Ben, Tyler, Brian, Sarah, Ben, Bethany, Jessica, Kinsey, Adam, Nicole, Trisha, Shaun; 17 great-grandchildren Corvin, James, Cyrenna, Sophie, Harper, Cora, Calista, Brian, Tatianna, Ariana, Prince, Elijah, Josiah, Spencer, Lauren, Ashton, and Stiles; and nieces and nephews. Ray is preceded in death by his parents, and his siblings Eleanor (Clyde) Gray, Eloise (Dale) Wheeler, Hazel (Art) Hullinger, and Roy (Eloise) Sailsbery.

In an effort to protect the health and well being of family members, a private interment for the family will be held on November 28, 2020.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Ray's memory to Sky Lodge Christian Camp at [skylodge.org](http://skylodge.org) or by mail to: Sky Lodge Christian Camp, N4855 County Road Y, Montello, WI 53949.

Thank you from the Sailsbery family to the SSM Home Health Care team, Penny and Jody, to caregivers Terri and Lori, and to the Clary Memorial Funeral home for all their care and kindness during this time.

[www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

SS

“ To Shirley.....Steve, Curtis, and Shona ...my deepest sympathies to you all in the loss of your husband and Father .....I just learned of Ray's passing today (11/21/20...Ray was such a wonderful person ..I knew him of course through church many many years ago as you all know....he was always kind to me...he had a wonderful smile and a kind voice and I see he still has that sweet smile ...a godly Man....I am sorry for your loss for your whole family.....Sandi Rittenhouse-Spink.

---

**sandi spink** - November 21, 2020 at 10:47 PM

JP

“ So sorry to hear of your loss . Ray was a great neighbor and I loved to stop in and visit with him. Jeff and Carol Pollock

---

**Jeff Pollock** - October 10, 2020 at 01:53 PM

CW

“ To Shirley and your family:  
We were blessed to have known Ray for his faith and friendship.  
When attending church  
in Richland Center he would always seek us out for conversation  
about what mattered  
most--God and family. Shirley you will miss this great man. Our  
thoughts and prayers.  
Jim and Cheri Wontor

---

**Cherlyn Wontor** - October 06, 2020 at 08:53 AM

DN

“ So sorry for your loss, he was a wonderful man.  
Deb and Glen Niemeyer

---

**debra niemeyer** - October 02, 2020 at 04:53 PM

SM

“ So sorry to hear of Dad’s passing. We had lots of good times together. Always enjoyed getting together.

*My sympathy is with you Stephen, Curt, Shona, your spouses and families.*

*Until we all meet in Heaven.*

*Stella Moser*



---

**Stella Moser** - September 28, 2020 at 05:09 PM



*Thank you! I remember getting together in your home. Wishing you health and peace, Shona*

---

**Shona Fowler** - October 01, 2020 at 12:40 PM

JU

“ I remember going to Uncle Ray and Aunt Shirley's house when I was a kid and my sister and I would have a great time paddling around in the paddle boat. There was even a time where there was a bat that had gotten into the house and my dad and Uncle Ray were after it as all the women were screaming! He will be missed. I am thinking of you all and praying for you during this time. Julie Wheeler ( Dale and Roxane Wheeler's daughter)

---

**Julie** - September 28, 2020 at 12:56 PM

CC

“ Ray was a memorable part of our lives in Richland Center, and we have fond memories of him. His faith was unshakable, and we know we will meet again in heaven. We remember him whenever we use the beautiful wooden hall tree and shelf he made. Prayers for comfort and peace for Shirley, the kids, grandkids and all who loved him. Pat and Cheri Coakley

---

**Cheri Coakley** - September 27, 2020 at 03:08 PM

VA

“ I still have a piece that Ray made for me many years ago. It was custom size storage cabinet for my tiny kitchen at the time. I still have it after many many years. So sorry for your loss.

Val - September 27, 2020 at 01:09 PM

BT

“ What memories I have of this man, and appreciation for what he and Shirley meant to my folks when they came to pastor your church. Long after Dad was gone, your folks supported our Mother and for that we are grateful. In later years, bringing Mom into your folks' S.S. Class was always a treat. In later years, visiting with Ray at ballgames was so enjoyable, as we talked baseball, wrestling, and all things considered. He was a straight shooter, a lover of people, and a friend of mine. I am most blessed!

Bill Twining - September 27, 2020 at 08:36 AM

LW

“ I AM sorry to hear about it will miss him. The Lord be with you all at this time. If I can help in any way let me know

Larry winger - September 27, 2020 at 07:06 AM



“ Dad always enjoyed a family rendezvous at his Grandson Tyler's restaurants, The Black Sheep and Casual Joe's in Whitewater, WI



Shona Fowler - September 27, 2020 at 05:43 AM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Shona Fowler - September 27, 2020 at 05:33 AM

DA

*We remember Ray when we attended the Free Methodist Church. The kids remember him as part of their childhood. We have a couple of items that he made. Sorry for your lost.*

*Dennis Adams family*

Debra Adams - September 28, 2020 at 10:50 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Shona Fowler - September 27, 2020 at 05:02 AM

JP

“ Don't know if u remember me or not but we were neighbors on Burton street...I was only about 4 or 5 but our family kept connecting over the years...was so sad to hear about monnies passing...in fact I was going thru my moms pictures and she had a graduation pic of u. I was going to send it to marv when I heard she passed...a beautiful lady...I lost my hubby 24 years ago so know how hard it is...never remarried...Shirley Fanta husom just passed not too long ago...u have my sympathy and o yea...I am 77 years old now...my brother Donnie passed about seven years ago. ❤️❤️🙏🙏

judie burkhamer pospichal - September 26, 2020 at 07:32 PM

JP

Used to b Judie burkhamer

judie burkhamer pospichal - September 26, 2020 at 07:33 PM



Thank you for your note and for sharing your connection. We are sorry for your loss as well.

Shona Fowler - September 26, 2020 at 09:38 PM

MM

So very sorry ❤️ for your loss. Prayers for your family 🙏

Marilyn Martin - September 27, 2020 at 12:42 AM

VI

“ I remember Uncle Ray when we would drive to RC every summer to visit the cousins. We'd slide down the hill next to grandma's house. Uncle Ray and Aunt Shirley were wonderful to visit! I know he is rejoicing with his brother (my dad), his sisters and his sweet mom, my grandma. Miss them all, but look forward to a big family reunion in heaven! 💕💕

Vickie - September 26, 2020 at 07:16 PM



*Thank you for sharing your memory! He has been dreaming of and looking forward to joining his mom, sisters, brother, and their spouses in heaven! It will be a beautiful reunion ❤️*

**Shona Fowler** - September 26, 2020 at 09:29 PM



*“ Sincere sympathy, love and prayers to your family. Steve, my classmate, I mourn with you and pray for peace and comfort during this difficult time.*

*Sincerely, Ann Ulrich Walker in Santiago, Chile*

**Ann Walker** - September 26, 2020 at 06:12 PM

ST

*“ Ray was such a good member of the community watching out for others whether physically or spiritually. I am grateful for my memories of Ray.*

**Susan Turner Thering** - September 26, 2020 at 06:11 PM

VW

*“ Hugs and prayers for the Salisbury family I got to know Ray thru Shirley being a teacher at Ithaca She had some of my kids in her class Also my maiden name was Kenyon (yes a distant relative but someone changed the spelling I learned that my grandfather was Kinyon) My sympathy to all the family*

**Virginia Wiedenfeld** - September 26, 2020 at 01:01 PM



*Shirley (Mom) says she remembers having your kids. We've also found a variety of spellings of Mom and Dad's names on documents this week. Thank you for your note!*

**Shona Fowler** - September 26, 2020 at 09:35 PM