



Raymond William Taylor

March 14, 1948 - July 24, 2025

Hampton - Raymond William Taylor, a devoted husband, father and grandfather, passed away peacefully on July 24, 2025.

Born on March 14, 1948 in Pittsfield, MA, Ray was the middle son of the late Charles William and Ernestine Emma (Bence) Taylor. He was a graduate of Pittsfield High School and went on to earn degrees from the University of Massachusetts (B.A. in Mathematics (1969); M.Ed., 1971), Boston College Law School (J.D., 1974) and the Supreme Court's Court Executive Development Program in Washington, D.C. (1996), becoming a Fellow of the Institute of Court Management.

Ray began his professional career as a high school math teacher in Amherst, MA, before practicing law in Boston. He went on to serve the state of New Hampshire for more than 40 years, first at the Office of Legislative Services (1974-1976) and later as Deputy Clerk and Clerk of the Rockingham County Superior Court (1976-2015).

Ray's contributions to the legal profession went well beyond the courtroom. He served for 30 years on the New Hampshire Supreme Court Advisory Committee of Rules, as well as on the NH Bar Association's Special Committee on Rules of Civil Procedure (1982-1988). He was a long-standing member of the Rockingham County Bar Association, serving on its Board of

Directors (1976-2015) and as Secretary (1998-2015), and a dedicated member of the Charles C. Doe American Inns of Court where he served on the founding committee (1994) and as a member of the Executive Committee and Administrator of the Inn (1995-2015). In 2024, Ray celebrated 50 years of legal practice as a member of the New Hampshire Bar Association.

Ray also enjoyed civic involvement. He coached youth soccer, basketball, and baseball for the Hampton Youth Association and served as a board member and president of his homeowner's neighborhood association.

In addition to his professional and civic life, Ray was an accomplished pianist and trumpeter and carried a love for music and the arts throughout life. In college, he chaired the Fine Arts Council, was editor of the Fine Arts "Collegian," and performed with the University Band and Operetta Guild. Ray was an avid reader (especially history and art books) and enjoyed watching movies and visiting museums. He also loved Christmas (always decorating the tree himself), puzzles and visiting Bar Harbor and Williamsburg.

Ray enjoyed the outdoors and in earlier years was a runner and tennis player. He and his wife, Janet, enjoyed hiking and annual vacations in Acadia National Park and Bar Harbor, ME. Particularly memorable was the 13 hour climb of Mount Katahdin, including the knife edge, in Baxter State Park, ME. This was a considerable feat for Ray (achieved 3 times) considering his lifelong spinal condition.

Prior to retirement, Ray and Janet attended many rock concerts, including a few legendary reunion tours. After retirement, they enjoyed traveling and Ray was able to spend time on home projects. He was a gifted problem solver with an ability to fix or build anything with care and precision. He also followed the Boston sports teams, especially the Patriots.

Above all, Ray was a devoted family man. He shared almost 50 years of marriage with his loving wife, Janet, and took great pride in the lives and accomplishments of his children, Jill and Ray Jr., and his cherished grandchildren. His greatest joy came from time spent with family-whether celebrating milestones or enjoying quiet, everyday moments.

Ray is survived by his devoted wife, Janet Taylor; daughter Jill Story and her husband Brian of Haverhill, MA, and their children Jacqueline, Brian Jr., and Alexandra; son Raymond W. Taylor Jr. of Austin, TX , and his daughter, Mila; brothers Robert Taylor and Richard Taylor (Susan Towley); brother-in-law John Maciejewicz (Elizabeth); nephews Christopher Taylor and Daniel Taylor (Amanda); cousin Russell Dunn (Barbara Delaney); cousin Alvin Ericson; and longtime friend, Dr. William Neigher.

Quiet and thoughtful by nature, Ray was known for his patience, humility, curiosity and deep sense of empathy. His legacy of kindness, integrity and quiet strength will live on in the many lives he touched through his work, his friendships, and in the family that he loved so deeply.

Family and friends will gather to honor and remember Ray for a period of visitation on Thursday, August 7, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in the Remick and Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, 811 Lafayette Rd., Hampton, NH., followed by a funeral service at noon. Burial will follow at the High Street Cemetery, Hampton. If desired, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ray's memory to Dana Farber Cancer Center, dana-farber.org.

To view Ray's service remotely, please use this link:

<https://youtu.be/7MJRBbs9a1g?si=oQZT8pC9d5V9lgVw>

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 7. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory
811 Lafayette Road ·
Hampton, NH 03842
(603) 926-6500
info@remickgendron.com
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

Funeral Service

AUG 7. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory
811 Lafayette Road ·
Hampton, NH 03842
(603) 926-6500
info@remickgendron.com
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

Interment

AUG 7. 1:00 PM (ET)

High Street Cemetery
140 High St
Hampton, NH 03842

Tribute Wall

JR

“ I was a law clerk in Rockingham county in 1985 to 1986, and had the pleasure of working with Ray and a corral full of very independent judges. Ray was always the picture of com and of professionalism and kindness. Although I had not seen Ray in over 40 years, I always will remember him with fondness and respect, and send my best wishes to the family that he left behind.

Jeremy Ritzenberg - November 25, 2025 at 06:24 PM

WN

“ 3 files added to the album Bill Neigher



WILLIAM David NEIGHER - August 12, 2025 at 09:00 PM

“ From Bill Neigher and family:

Ray and I were best of friends since our college days at UMass Amherst, Sixty years. My memories of our relationship will endure, and that sustains me in the loss of the kindest, warmest and most loving of friends.

Ray and I met as trumpet players in the UMass Symphony Band. He was better. We performed in that ensemble, and toured with the band every semester.

And somehow I discovered he played piano. And from there grew a remarkable collaboration in music that we both remember as the happiest time of our lives. Really. We both had very meaningful careers and accomplishments. And still this was the best of times.

I became the music director and conductor for the Operetta Guild at UMass. The organization that put on musical theater productions. My three shows were "Once Upon a Mattress," "L'il Abner," and "Wonderful Town." Ray was our rehearsal pianist and played piano in the pit orchestra. Ray's remarkable gift for the piano, his ability to respond to all kinds of disasters on stage, and calm resolve got me through these shows. A gift that you can't really teach. But you can share, and Ray did so with passion and soul.

We began to write music together---kind of just happened. We composed some great music [and some not so great] and were a team. No competitiveness; the phrase that sounded the best got into the score.

I was also blessed with a close friendship with Wally Kane. One of the world's best low reed studio musicians, with over 200 albums on his discography. I had met Wally in the recording studio for the original music for the NBC program "The Eternal Light." Fast forward, we followed Wally on recording dates in NYC and were inspired by the musicians we met and heard.

Wally, eclectic in every genre, performed with Bernstein at NY Philharmonic concerts, and in the reed section of The Tonight Show with Carson. For that role, Ray and I did an arrangement of "Eleanor Rigby" which featured Wally on bassoon and of course Doc on trumpet. Took us six months. The Tonight Show moved to California before we got a chance to hear it performed, but it's still a great arrangement. [We will share with Janet a rehearsal recording.....]

We wrote the score to a proposed musical treatment of "Robin Hood." Mel Brooks ended that adventure with "Robin Hood Men in Tights." But it had some good moments.

We went to Maine to visit Baxter State Park and climb Mt Katahdin. We got his car stuck in an isolated beach off an unmarked logging road. Sand up to the doors. Ray was optimistic we would get out. I wasn't so sure. He always saw the glass "almost full."

We were always in touch; we visited him in New Hampshire and he came to our vacation home in Vermont.

When our daughter Debbie had her senior recital at Tufts University in 2009, Ray and family were there. A shared joyous moment. As we were hearing about all the swim meets and all of the things Jill and Ray Jr did growing up.

Ray had "miles to go" before it was his turn to sleep. His loss is just unimaginable to Susan, Debbie, Aaron and me. We were blessed by his friendship and for me, sharing the happiest times of our lives.

May his memory be a blessing.

Bill, Susan, Debbie and Aaron Neigher

RS

“ Rich & Carol Sherwin purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Raymond William Taylor.



Rich & Carol Sherwin - August 05, 2025 at 09:45 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Life Tributes



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - August 05, 2025 at 09:32 AM



“ 135 files added to the album Life Tributes



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - August 04, 2025 at 10:08 AM

SN

“ Janet, Jill, and Ray,
There is not enough time, ever, for persons like Ray to be here among us. A true moral compass for all of us to watch and to emulate. Every characteristic one would hope to find in a friend, neighbor, community member could be found in Ray. I searched for one encompassing word to describe a man I saw coach and parent, work in a court system, accompany a woman whom he glowed when in her presence, and live a life of profound goodness. Honorable is the one that seemed best. In his living for others, he became as fulfilled as one human can be.
We are all better for having known Ray, even from a distance. Thank you for sharing a rare person who truly lived a life that mattered to so many in so many ways.
I hold you all close to my heart. Sheila

Sheila Nudd - July 30, 2025 at 08:23 PM

BA

“ We first got to know Ray when he was the coach of our son Tony’s HYA basketball team. Ray was an excellent coach, patient and caring, making sure the team had fun as well as fostering a winning spirit. We will cherish the many memories of a quick chat with Ray and Janet after church services and appreciate his fortitude maneuvering up so many stairs when visiting us, despite his challenging spinal condition. Ray will be dearly missed because he was a humble, caring and patient soul who one knew had his complete attention when sharing conversations. The world could use more Ray Taylors; he will be greatly missed by many.
- Barb and Al Brucato



Barb & Al - July 30, 2025 at 09:09 AM



“ Janet , Jill and Ray
Steve and I are very sorry to hear of Ray's
passing.

Many great memories with the WHS band
boosters.

Sending heartfelt condolences.
Steve and Sandra Sheridan



Sandra Baillargeon-Sheridan - July 29, 2025 at 08:36 PM

FD

Dear Janet, Jill and Ray, Jr and extended family.

So sorry to hear about Ray, Sr's passing on.

Please accept our deepest condolences.

May his soul rest in eternal peace and prayers for the family to have
patience to bear the loss.

We will miss him and join in spirit tomorrow during funeral ceremony.

With love and light,
Roshankhanu, Firozdin, Rahim, Salimah and Mila Rose

Firozdin Dossa - August 06, 2025 at 06:16 PM

PK

Ray was already a fixture at the Rockingham County Superior Court Clerk's Office when I first ventured there as a new attorney. He was unfailingly kind and helpful, a real mensch in the midst of chaos and turmoil. I refer to the attorneys and their clients waiting hopefully for their hearing or case to be called. The halls were filled with litigants and their representatives, craning their necks to see who was next on the list and agonizing over when and if their turn would come. Through it all, Ray was a pillar of restraint and a center of calm, assuring us all that we would get through it. And we did! Thanks to his even handed and sensitive management. I don't know how he navigated so many years of this kind of stress, but we could all learn from him. A prince of a man!

Pam Kelly - August 07, 2025 at 01:21 PM