



Jimmie "Ray" Womble Jr.

September 9, 1961 - October 5, 2023

In Loving Memory of Jimmie "Ray" Womble Jr.

Jimmie "Ray" Womble Jr. passed away unexpectedly on October 5th, 2023, in Oviedo, Florida, at the age of 62. He is survived by his loving mother, Bobbie M. Womble, his sister Carolyn Taylor and her husband Matthew Taylor, his brother David W. Womble and his wife Michelle Womble, and a vast extended family of friends who cherished him as kin. He was preceded in death by his father, Jimmie Ray Womble Sr.

Born on September 9, 1961, in Opelika, Alabama, to Jimmie and Bobbie Womble, Ray was a beacon of kindness and generosity. His life was a testament to the power of selfless love and compassion.

Ray was a humble soul, never seeking accolades for the countless acts of kindness he performed. He was also an extraordinary repository of knowledge, often referred to as a walking encyclopedia. His passion for conversation was unmatched, and he had an uncanny ability to engage in meaningful dialogue that lingered in your heart long after you parted ways. His sharp wit, often catching people off-guard, was matched by his ability to take and give a good-natured ribbing. He found his greatest joy in sharing laughter with those he held dear, and everyone was a target of his affectionate teasing. Ray's enduring legacy is one of helping people. He left an indelible mark on the lives of many, and his lasting impact on those he touched is a testament to his unwavering commitment to his friends and extended family. To Ray, everyone was family, and he cherished each relationship with equal warmth.

The sudden loss of Ray has left an irreplaceable void in our lives, but his memory will forever keep him alive in our hearts.

A celebration of Ray's life will be held on Saturday, October 28th, at 1 p.m. at the DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory - Maitland Chapel, located at 9001 N. Orlando Avenue, Maitland, FL 32751. The ceremony will be officiated by Ray's dear friend, Bob Sparks.

As a nod to Ray's love for food and camaraderie, a barbecue reception will follow the ceremony. All who knew and loved him are welcome to attend and honor his remarkable life. In keeping with Ray's informal spirit, we kindly request that attendees dress casually, wearing jeans or work pants with a button-up shirt, or something similar. No ties, please. In lieu of flowers, and to honor Ray's legacy of helping those in need, we encourage you to make a charitable donation in his name to a cause that speaks to your heart.

Ray's light will continue to shine brightly through the love he shared with us all, and his legacy of selflessness and kindness will inspire us to carry on his compassionate spirit.

Tribute Wall

MB

“ *Happy Birthday, Ray! I miss getting together with you and talking about everything under the sun and solving all the world's problems. You are always in my thoughts.*

M.J. Blum - September 09, 2024 at 08:03 PM

DH

“ I first met Ray at Lockheed Martin. We hired him as a welder/fabricator. It didn't take long to figure out that Ray was multifaceted in many areas of manufacturing and mechanics. His knowledge of machinery and hardware was quite extensive and he was a masterful machinist. These qualities were a perfect fit for our ever-changing and challenging diverse work assignments. This often included developing new and creative solutions and Ray was outstanding in this area.

We worked together at LM for at least 17 years and we became great friends.

We later learned that we had crossed paths several times before he was hired at Lockheed. I had once lived in Casselberry about a block from Lane Hardware where Ray worked for many years. We were sure to have met while I shopped at Lane and discovered we knew many of the same people. I live in Winter Springs now so we have been near each other for centuries.

Over the years we have become close friends and I like many others have relied on his extensive knowledge of damn near everything. Although we both have retired he would stop by my house or call and the conversations would go on and on and...well you know Ray!

As many know, Ray's generosity was immeasurable for example after hurricane Ian, my home flooded and of course I called Ray. He came over with the right tools, got on his knees, and cut every piece of ruined carpet out of five rooms into manageable pieces. He also brought his brother David and sister in law Michelle to help in my time of need. Who does that and asks nothing in return? Ray, that's who. Ray was one of a kind and those of us lucky enough to have known him will miss him greatly.

RIP my friend

Denny Hamilton

Denny Hamilton - October 29, 2023 at 12:27 AM

MI

“ I remember meeting Ray at my parent’s shop when my sisters and I were teenagers. This car/camera loving jack of all trades with the funny sayings soon became well known in our large Puerto Rican family gatherings.

From sharing his only Spanish word (grassy-ass) to bringing a southern dish to giving rides in his newest car, he definitely made things more entertaining.

He would often start with, “To tell you the truth....”. And then he would. His integrity and character were some of the things that made him such a good friend

His generosity with his time and amazing talents is something many people will remember him for.

I’m especially thankful to Ray for his kindness when our family was going through the toughest time ever with my dad’s health.

Ray checked up on our family and kept others in the loop. He also helped my parents at the shop which brought us so much peace.

After going through such a traumatic time, Ray being there for our family meant more than words can express.

What a miracle God gave us in having Ray as a friend. His kindness will never be forgotten.

Michelle - October 28, 2023 at 10:57 AM

RH

“ Ray was a special guy! We'll miss hearing Ray on the radio and his enthusiastic “Ray” when checking into the traffic net. Great times were had at weekly breakfasts at Sally's, our get-togethers before the LMARS meetings, and working on the radio trailers.

KQ4PHQ this is KO4ZWF, clear on your final...

Rob Hall - October 28, 2023 at 09:49 AM

“ We met Ray more than 23 years ago, when Martin took a welding class at SCC. The instructor, John Bruenoehler, put Martin and Ray to work together. J.B. White was also taking the class, and a friendship developed that lasted until the day Ray passed away.

A few years after meeting, Ray came to work with us at our machine shop. It is the place where he was around tools, machines, grease, dirt, maintenance and repairs, new technology, projects and procedures, customers and salesmen. The highlight was going out for lunch and hit every lunch buffet or fast food in town. We would share stories and jokes, and got to hear about family and friends, and what was going on in our and his life. Sometimes Martin will shut down for the day and they will go somewhere just to relax. Visiting J.B. was a favorite.

When Martin temporarily shut down the shop, Ray went to work for another machine shop and then for Lockheed Martin, but we stayed in touch always. He will call or come by the shop or the house. Often, he was part of our family time and events, including weddings. He knew our family and they knew him. He was there for us, always helping Martin in whatever project was at hand.

Last year Martin had open heart surgery due to aorta stenosis. He could barely walk and breath. It was a trial time, a time of prayers and supplication to God to extend his life. Ray came to help us to complete a long job and the functioning of the shop. I thanked him for being there as a true friend in whom we could count on.

In September Ray installed a compressor, fixed a leak at the shop and helped our daughter to move a fake fireplace to her photography studio. We went out for lunch several times, including to Cracker Barrel to celebrate his birthday. Martin and Ray planned to go to Titusville to see the new Kobodas and had other projects pending. When we received Dave's call about Ray passing away we couldn't believe it. He had just called Martin in the morning, reminding him about J.B.'s birthday. Our hearts are broken; he was

one of ours. He was part of our family and very present in our lives.

We will remember Ray, the friend who loved clean, fancy cars, photography, jokes and funny phrases, funny birthday cars, tools, food, spending time with friends and family, and helping others. We thank God for bringing him into our lives. To Bobbie, Carol and Matthew, Dave and Michelle, and all who loved him, we offer our condolences and sympathy. Martin and Rosa Guzman



Rosa - October 25, 2023 at 04:06 PM

MB

“ Ray has been a dear friend since college, which seems like it wasn't that long ago, but it's been 41 years! He was 2 years ahead of me in business school at UCF when we met. He gave me inside information on the classes and professors. We also shared a love of sports cars. We would work on cars in his yard or garage. When I picked up my Lotus, he gave me a ride. When he bought his Lotus, I gave him a ride. Also when he bought his truck. Which he recently turned into the truck-mahal. And cats. I was a crazy cat lady like his mom. 🐱 We (or was it he? 😊) talked for hours about everything under the sun. He was one of the few people I felt free to be my weird, crazy self around (other than my dad and my son Ryan). As everyone who knows Ray can attest, he would drop whatever he was doing to help someone. The most significant thing he did was he was the first one to show up at the hospital in Lake County to be by my side when Ryan died in a motorcycle crash. He drove my car home, then he and David drove back out there to pick up his car. We all have stories about the things he did for us, but what stays in our hearts is how he was just there. His presence will be sorely missed.

M.J. Blum - October 23, 2023 at 09:17 PM

AK

“ In amateur radio culture, when a "Ham" passes on, we celebrate him by assigning his call sign to a category called a "Silent Key." This comes from the early days when Hams and Telegraph operators around the world communicated by exchanging messages in Morse Code. "Dits and Dah's." Ray's call sign was KO4PHQ and he never missed connecting to our nightly communications using ham radio. We will all miss him. His broad smile always came through the radio airwaves.

Andy KG4QCD - October 21, 2023 at 10:15 AM

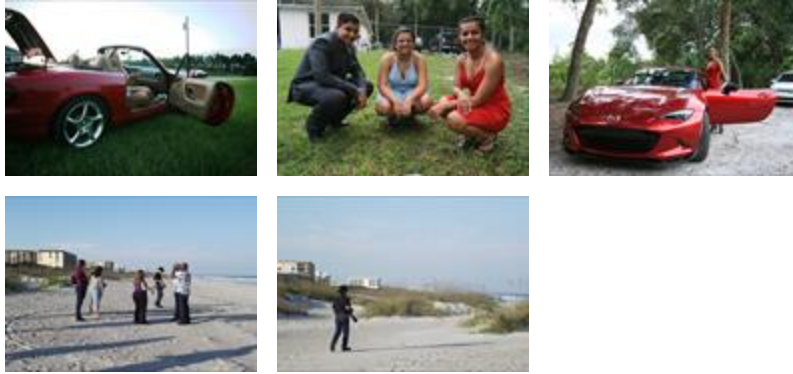


“ I’ll never forget how Ray and David saved our house. We were living in Oviedo, in a wood frame house, when we discovered termites, after they’d already consumed much of the front of our house. Dave and Ray showed up with every tool imaginable (Ray had THE tool collection) and we rebuilt the house from the studs. Of course, there were also numerous car breakdowns that Ray came to help us out with. The payment? Always taking the brunt of Ray’s sarcastic humor. You couldn’t help but smile. Last image etched in my mind after all these years. My wife and I had just opened a Gymnastics facility in Maitland, and the girls at the gym were doing a car wash to raise money for travel. Along come Ray and Dave, I believe both driving gorgeous Corvettes. These 10 year old girls went crazy. Of course, both cars had already been immaculately detailed before they even showed up, but they both came out to support the gym. Simple thing that I’ve never forgotten. The world is going to miss you Ray.

Jack McGrath - October 17, 2023 at 05:58 PM

JT

“ As you know with Ray there was always a story and what he gave my kids and me amid a divorce that almost destroyed me to a new life afterwards...from our 6 hour drives to the canal where he put his car on the ferry to my butt hurt in the lotus on 8hr drives where we barely spoke and he just left me to myb thoughts.....he gave me peace so I could be a better mom and person to then fight the cancer that was lurking.....I tried to send the spirit of him, in the background yet his ability to capture front and center moments. This was fun to look back and find him, always there, in the background but ever so front in center in what he saw!



Jody L Taylor - October 17, 2023 at 05:27 PM

JM

“ My heart goes out to the family and friends of Ray. I am a newer ham and only knew him a short time. I enjoyed our conversations about radio and his truck. He did a great job on the truck and liked to share his experiences with me. I appreciated his help in working on the LMARS trailer. He will be greatly missed.

Joe Marsh - October 17, 2023 at 01:17 PM