

Clifton Delano Ray, 96, of Jacksonville, FL formerly of Clay County, TN passed away Friday, July 5, 2013 in Jacksonville.

He was born May 17, 1917 in Clay County, TN to the late Bascom and Della Slate Ray. During the 1930's he served in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and remained an active life member of the CCC. During WWII he served in the Army Air Corps in the European theater as an aircraft engine mechanic in the Ninth Air Force. He married his high school sweetheart, Agnes Taylor, on February 23, 1944 while both were stationed in England. He graduated from Middle Tennessee State College with a Master of Science degree in Industrial Arts and had a 40 year career as a school teacher, retiring in Jacksonville, FL. He had been an active member of Terry Parker Baptist Church in Jacksonville since 1964. He routinely assisted people less fortunate than himself. He was a member of the American Legion.

He is survived by two sons: James Ray of Summerville, SC, Charles Ray of Pensacola, FL, one daughter: Sandra Watkins of Jacksonville, FL, one sister: Cleo Johnson of Franklin, IN, four grandchildren: Eilene Gallo, Andrew Ray, Amanda and Josh Ray, six great grandchildren: Hannah Ray, Samantha Gregor, Mia Gallo, Ethan Gregor, Jameson Ray and Juliana Gallo.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife: Agnes Taylor Ray, six brothers: James, Bascom Jr., Roy, Paul, John and Doug Ray and one sister Clio Jenkins and one son: David Ray.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday, July 12 at 2:00 PM at Strode's Gamaliel Chapel in Gamaliel with burial to follow in the Gamaliel Cemetery. Military rites will be performed at graveside by DAV Chapter 20 of Glasgow. Visitation will be after 1:00 PM until service time on Friday at Strode's Gamaliel Chapel in Gamaliel.