

## **Raymond Mack Foster | 1930-2015**

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Raymond Mack Foster

Raymond Mack Foster, 85, of Decatur died Sunday, Sept. 20, 2015. Funeral is 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, at Bluebonnet Hills Funeral Home in Colleyville. Burial will follow at Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Park.

Raymond was born in Spartanburg, S.C. He moved to Hickory, N.C., where he lived until he joined the United States Air Force where he served as a flight engineer for 21 years. After retiring, he went to work for American Airlines as a ground school instructor for 27 years, amused that at 39 years of age, he was too old to be hired to fly. He knew he was greatly blessed to have had two careers that he loved.

Shortly before retiring, he and his wife Merle moved to Runaway Bay at Lake Bridgeport where he could enjoy fishing and golfing more frequently. His goal on the golf course was to always be able to shoot his age. He served Runaway Bay on the city council and was mayor pro-tem during his final term. He was honored to win Citizen of the Year while there. The last nine years were spent in Decatur, where he was a member of Decatur Church of Christ. Here he enjoyed deep friendships that gave him many days of joy. He served the Decatur area by helping set up and run the church's clothing room for six years. Serving others was in his nature.

Ray, "Honey," Daddy, Pop, Buzz, Granddaddy, Didi, Grandpa, Papa Ray, Ray-Bob will be missed beyond words. He was the epitome of a gentleman and a gentle man to all who knew him. He was described as "the best man I ever knew," and "the perfect godly man." He loved, honored, respected, protected, supported and led his family humbly and fiercely until he died after injuries sustained in a fall.

Forty one years ago, two imperfect families were perfectly blended setting an example of love, joy and peace. He leaves a legacy for his children, grandchildren and many friends that will not be forgotten. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Kitty; and son David. Ray is survived by his loving wife, Merle; children Marc, Bruce and Sue Foster, Suzanne McKinney and Sherrill Patton; nine grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and sister Jan Saunders of Hickory, N.C.