



## Raymond "Ray" D. Schlag

June 21, 1946 - February 17, 2024

Raymond "Ray" D. Schlag, 77 year old resident of rural Little Falls, MN, passed away Saturday, February 17, 2024 at the family farm near Swanville, MN. A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at St. John's Catholic Church in Swanville, MN with Father Ron Dockendorf officiating. Burial will be at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery north of Little Falls. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service on Tuesday at the church. Caring for Ray and his family is the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, MN.

Raymond Dell Schlag, son of the late Dell Schlag and Emma (Kaiser) Schlag, was born on June 21, 1946, in Little Falls, MN. He was found deceased on February 17th, 2024, at his childhood farm near Swanville, MN. Raymond attended primary and secondary school in Swanville, MN, graduating in 1964. He was drafted into the United States Army and later transferred to serve in the United States Marine Corps on January 12, 1966. He served a tour of duty in Vietnam as a combat engineer and was honorably discharged with the rank of Lance Corporal. Ray also served in the Army National Guard for several years. Upon discharge from the service, he made and sold firewood and raised hogs. He later worked at the boat works in Little Falls for many years. Although Raymond struggled with addiction which had negative effects on his relationships, he refused to let that define him. Raymond enrolled in Brainerd Community College where he explored his interest in human psychology. Ray

ultimately achieved sobriety for over 25 years, during which time he became increasingly active as a supportive member of the local recovery community. Through Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and other groups, Raymond facilitated recovery for many of its members, which in turn aided his own recovery. Ray spent countless hours driving members to meetings, sharing his insights, and listening without judgment. Ray's many interests included reading, cooking, and trapping with cousin, Larry. He loved visiting with people and caring for animals, especially dogs. His hobby farm gave him purpose daily. Raymond's passion for motorcycles took him all over the country, where he could feel the breeze on his face as he cruised down the road and met new people along the way. Ray will always be remembered for his unique laugh and his sense of humor. He loved to tell stories, which always accompanied a twinkle in his eyes. His family and friends, who loved him, will miss him at the family gatherings where many memories and meals were shared. Ray's memory will live on in the hearts of all who loved him.

Ray is survived by his five children (who requested privacy); sister, Elaine (Myren) Anderson; nephews, Richard, Jeffrey, Jon, Bradley, Marc and niece Stephanie.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents, Dell and Emma Schlag.

"Some people spend their lifetime wondering if they made a difference...Marines don't have that problem."

--Ronald Reagan

# Cemetery Details

## Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery

15550 Highway 115  
Little Falls, MN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 27. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church - Swanville  
12 First Street  
Swanville, MN

## Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 27. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church - Swanville  
12 First Street  
Swanville, MN

# Tribute Wall



“ *My best friend.*

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**Curtis Neumann** - July 02, 2024 at 04:23 PM



“ *Ray will be missed. Rest in peace my friend*



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**Kenneth Carper** - February 23, 2024 at 08:07 PM



“ *Ray will be missed, he had that quiet demeanor and that twinkle in his eye. He was a big part of the AA community. Mike & June Redmond*

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**June Redmond** - February 22, 2024 at 11:36 AM



“ *Rest in peace, Ray.....*



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**Audrey Stout** - February 21, 2024 at 10:18 AM

KP

“ I will miss you, my friend.



Karen P. - February 21, 2024 at 09:33 AM

BR

“ Ray Ray was a very huge part of my past. Good/Bad. Our best friend Ray Krebs and others spent the first summer partying and forgetting to go home. There were many dangerous situations and the old me idolized that part of my past. We both sobered up years and years later. Ray believed in the man upstairs and lived as close as he could to him. He was loved by so many. My heart saddens selfishly. But happy he went home to be with his Heavenly Father. You were my Rock Ray say hello to Ray K and watch over all of us. Love you 🤔🙏🙏🙏🙏

Barbara Jean Rekowski - February 21, 2024 at 08:50 AM

AP

I knew Ray thru addiction and he was there when I got clean, Ray was always there to help others. He was one of the nicest guys around RIP Ray I'll miss you my friend

Ann plakut - February 24, 2024 at 11:13 AM

DZ

“ Dave And Laure Zimmermann lit a candle in memory of Raymond "Ray" D. Schlag



Dave and Laure Zimmermann - February 21, 2024 at 08:34 AM

DZ

*Rest in Peace, Ray*

**Dave and Laure Zimmermann** - February 21, 2024 at 08:36 AM

CS

“ *Cheryl Stellmach lit a candle in memory of Raymond "Ray" D. Schlag*



**Cheryl stellmach** - February 21, 2024 at 05:31 AM



“ *Peggy Gerving lit a candle in memory of Raymond "Ray" D. Schlag*



**Peggy Gerving** - February 20, 2024 at 06:26 PM

MB

*Man it's been a few years always injoyed visiting with Ray everytime we ran across each other. God speed my freind. Fly high and free.*

**Michael Beckmann** - February 20, 2024 at 09:08 PM