

Raymond 'Ray' Thompson III

August 26, 1939 - November 14, 2021



Sacramento, California - Raymond 'Ray' Stanley Thompson III passed away on November 14, 2021, in Sacramento, California with his family at his side. Ray was born on August 26, 1939, in Omaha, Nebraska. He is survived by his loving wife Nadia, two children, five grandchildren, and two stepdaughters.

Ray believed that education was the path to success in life. He obtained his Associate Bachelor's degree in Government from Dartmouth College and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Nebraska. Throughout his life he penned many educational papers, served as Director of Nebraska Higher Education Facilities Commission, served as Director of UC Davis Executive Program, and donated to schools generously. He continued his support by donating his body to the University of California System to further research and education.

After obtaining his bachelor's degree, Ray served in the U.S. Marine Corps and raised to the rank of captain during the Vietnam War where he flew in a Cessna L-19 'Bird Dog' spotting for trouble. Ray is mentioned by Jim G. Lucas in his book "Dateline: Viet Nam" noting his bravery for being one of

the men that "guided us in, though they were low on fuel". For his service and courage in the Marine Corps, he received the Air Medal with four stars. After Ray was admitted to the State Bar of California in 1976, he held various positions that would challenge him and expand his knowledge. He served as a Senior Policy Consultant, Energy and Revenue & Taxation with the California Senate Republican Caucus from 2000-2007.

Ray's joys were rugby, flying, skiing, and boating. However, he really loved rugby. He played the sport until his elder years and spurred the sport's growth in the Sacramento area through his involvement with the Sacramento Valley Rugby Conference, Northern California Youth Rugby Club, and the Sacramento Valley Rugby Foundation. He often mentioned that playing rugby afforded him the opportunity to travel the world and meet outstanding people. He forever cherished the many relationships he had with his fellow rugby comrades.

Ray also had a passion for music and dancing. He touched the lives of many with his smile and sense of humor all the way to the end.

A celebration of life will be held on January 15, 2022, at the Dante Club at 2330 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95825. If you would like to attend, please contact Nadia Thompson at istanbulnr3@gmail.com by December 29, 2021.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the [Alzheimer's Association](#) to provide care, support, and aid in accelerating research.

Published by & from Nov. 23 to Nov. 28, 2021.