



## Richard E. Ray

October 14, 1944 - October 3, 2011

Benton Harbor – Richard ‘Rich’ E. Ray, 66, of Benton Harbor, passed away on Monday, October 3, at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in St. Joseph.

A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at 5:00 P.M., on Friday, October 21, 2011, at the First Congregational Church, 292 Bellview Street, in Benton Harbor, with Rev. Richard H. Taylor officiating. Burial of cremains will be private at Crystal Springs Cemetery in Benton Harbor. Memorial donations may be made to the Citadel Music and Dance School in Benton Harbor or to the Benton Harbor Public Library. The Dey-Florin Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. Messages of condolence may be sent to [www.florin.net](http://www.florin.net).

Rich was born on October 14, 1944, in Benton Harbor. He was one of three children born to Edwin and Mary Louise Ray. Rich was a 1962 graduate of Benton Harbor High School and earned his bachelors degree at Northwestern in Evanston, Illinois in 1966. He loved animals and music. Rich was heavily involved in the arts in Southwestern Michigan. He began playing harp at age seven and later played with the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, and both the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra and the South Bend Symphony. Rich played harp at numerous local social gatherings. He was the owner of Ludlow Travel in St. Joseph. His non-profit career included the foundation of several charitable

organizations including the Loft Teen Center, NISE, and Citizens Mediation Service all in Benton Harbor. Additionally, Rich was active in local historic landmark preservation in both St. Joseph and Benton Harbor.

Rich is survived by his brother, Edwin McConnell Ray of Indianapolis, Indiana; his sister, Lanny (Ralph) J. Nelson of Crystal Lake, Illinois; his long-time friend and business partner, Richard Hensel; two nieces; two great-nephews; two great-nieces; and by his beloved dog, Kaze.

Rich was preceded in death by his parents.

# Previous Events

## Service

OCT **21**. 5:00 PM (ET)

First Congregational Church  
292 Bellview St.  
Benton Harbor, MI

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thank you, Rich, for a wonderful life of giving and inspiration.* ”

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**Ron Leuty** - October 19, 2011 at 12:54 PM