



Carrie W. Ray

April 21, 1919 - April 5, 2014

CARRIE WALLS KELLOGG RAY was born April 21, 1919 in New Anchorage, Kentucky, and departed this life at 4:00 PM April 5, 2014. She was the second of five children, four boys and one girl, of Reverend William Pitt Kellogg and Fannie L. Gassaway Kellogg. She was born in a home that nurtured academic and musical pursuits. Both of her parents were college graduates and her grandmother was in the first class at Spelman College. As the daughter of a Methodist minister, her early life was enjoyed in several different cities and states, all enhancing her overall growth and development. Additionally, her father was an outstanding singer which possibly influenced her life and career. Upon completion of her early childhood education, she matriculated at Knoxville College, Knoxville, Tennessee and majored in voice and piano. At Knoxville College, the administrators and professors marveled at her superb talent and articulated the college's desire for just such a voice which was augmented with Carrie's outstanding piano performances. She and her brothers, Emmett and John, did "The Trio" by Faust across the country enriching the parishioners in black churches. This family trio thrilled the audiences. In addition to a display of musical talent with stellar performances, they depicted the close bonds of familial love that permeated the Kellogg Family. Carrie obtained a Bachelor of Music degree in 1940. Subsequent to this major milestone, she matriculated at Oberlin Conservatory, Oberlin, Ohio and was awarded the Master of Music degree. She excelled in many ways and displayed great intellect and impeccable musical talent. She continued

her studies many years after Oberlin College. It was the aura and richness of the collegiate environment where she met another superbly talented music student, later the love of her life, William Benjamin Ray, to whom she was joined in holy matrimony September 1, 1949. They were married by her father in Springfield, Ohio. Carrie's career encompassed many roles: teaching voice in Warrenton, North Carolina Experimental School; voice and Choir Director at Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina; instructor and Choir Director in high schools in Cleveland; instructing in music in Anne Arundel County (MD) schools and giving many private lessons. She was extremely supportive of her husband's endeavors. When he was offered the role of King Balthazar in Gian Carlo Menotti's Christmas Opera "Amahl and the Night Visitors" in Vienna, Austria, she was enthusiastic to go to Europe. For twenty-five years she accompanied her husband, an opera singer, in his extremely productive stay in Europe. While in Stuttgart, Germany, Carrie taught in the American School and encouraged many young girls and boys from the American military communities to attend orchestral performances, the opera, and the ballet. She became an administrator of the Opera Singers Association in Graz, Austria. She performed on many occasions with her husband. Upon returning to the United States in 1982, she continued her career as a music teacher. Carrie and Bill, as friends referred to them, portrayed a beautiful love story. Indeed they were a portrait of love and mutual respect indelibly framed in the memories of all whom they met. Their sixty-four years of marriage were filled with stimulating discourse, a love for people and family, and many appearances together in concerts. She was the soprano and he the baritone. With deep tenderness he recently said, "She was a part of me..." and described their sixty-four years "...as idyllic as God would have it be". Together they amassed friends across continents and never faltered in sharing their experiences, wisdom, and genuine love for others. Their welcome mat was ever present. Carrie radiated a bit of intrigue when gathered with friends. Her granddaughter described it as "unapologetically honest". No matter the description, she brought joy to others — just the way

she and Dr. Ray thrilled the hearts of many as they performed throughout Europe and America. She was devoted to the church and grew up in a nuclear family where the church was a centerpiece. Much of her humanitarian work was executed in her organizational life. Not only was she active with the Knoxville College Alumni Association, she lent her energies and talents to the Alpha Wives, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and the Gamma Boulé Wives of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. She had a rich life and performed for such notables as Roland Hayes and others. Her story is an inspiration and a symbolic symphony of style, personality, people, love, and talent. She epitomized faith, the capacity to believe and to share, a thirst for education and knowledge, the love of family and humankind, and a deep Christian belief in God. She is survived by her beloved husband, Dr. William Benjamin Ray; two sons, Alexander Pierre and William Benjamin, Jr. (both residents of California); two granddaughters, Jenna and Janine, students at Spelman College; sister-in-law, Nora Kellogg; numerous nieces and nephews, and a host of friends. Her brothers, Emmett, William, John, and Charles, preceded her in death. Indescribable strands of melodic music, coupled with powerful arias of her favorite operas embrace her as she journeys to eternal rest. Her love lasts in those who mourn her departure.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

APR 11. 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Family Hour

APR 11. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Wake

APR 12. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Asbury United Methodist Church
87 West St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Service

APR **12**. 5:00 PM (ET)

Asbury United Methodist Church
87 West St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Tribute Wall



“ *Carrie W. Ray*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *I'm so sorry for your loss and would like to offer my condolences to your family. Death is such a terrible thing for a family to go through, I actually lost my mom about 5yrs ago. I'm truly grateful that I have the truth about death and look forward to the future when there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous.”— ACTS 24:15. I'm sure you would love to see your dead loved one again in the coming Paradise here on earth! Again so sorry for your loss!!*

Ms Springer - April 14, 2014 at 07:11 AM



“ *Thinking of you. Wishing you and your family comfort, peace and hope in this time of sadness. I know how much all of you must miss this very special grandmother, mother and wife. May you find comfort remembering happy times you shared together.*

*With Deepest Sympathy
Jeannine, Joe, Dexter, Devlin and Alexandra Candelaria*

Jeannine Candelaria - April 12, 2014 at 06:38 PM

PL

“ I am sorry to read about the passing of your loved one. The loss of a loved one grieves the heart and makes us yearn for tomorrow, when Jehovah God keeps the promise he made at Rev 21:3-4 when death, mourning, outcry, pain and sorrow will be eliminated. These things that cause mankind so much pain will be eliminated.

Peggy Land - April 12, 2014 at 06:48 AM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Carrie W. Ray.



April 10, 2014 at 11:12 AM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Funeral Homes - April 09, 2014 at 01:09 PM