

Ray Grosser Testimonies



Sorry to hear about Ray. Our RR club use to visit he and Renee every summer to ride the trains and just to talk. Ray and Renee were always the most gracious and good hosts. We enjoyed their company and visiting with them.

Larry Smith
Dec 14, 2023

Raymond Grosser was my Airborne friend. Every Monday we would see each other in the Walmart parking lot and exchange war stories. He was a fun person to hang around with. He was seriously into model trains and always invited me to his home for a ride. I would always tell him that when I came over I wanted to drive the train. He was not having that because that train was his second baby. Of course Renee was his first love. I remember I was a patient at Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital and had been there for 17 days. I was very depressed and on the one particular sunny day in came Raymond all dressed up in his SF uniform with a green beret. He really looked sharp too. He drove all the way from Eubank, Ky to see me. He said, that the Lord sent him to me with a message. We pray and his message was simple-make it right with the Lord. I got saved a couple months later and what a blessing that has been. I spoke to Ray several days prior to his passing and I am glad I did. SSG Grosser I shall really miss you but we shall meet again on the other side. Thank you for helping me to see the light.

Terry Baker
Nov 30, 2023

Ray was such a special friend and was a blessing to me in the time I knew him. He was an inspiration to me and all who knew him and had biblical insight beyond what most can only imagine. I considered Ray a true prophet of the Lord and know beyond any doubt that he heard,

“well done my good and faithful child.” Ray will be greatly missed by Renee, his family and friends but his legacy will live on through his books and teachings online.

Lori Morrow
Nov 23, 2023

Ray was always bigger than life and passionate about pointing people to Christ. He was a huge blessing to our family and had a big impact on how my life developed. I am very thankful for his Godly leadership and kind generosity.

Ben Williams
Dec 1, 2023

RRay and I served together for many years, and we had the opportunity to jump out of airplanes and helicopters together on multiple occasions. I always spelled RRay with a double "R" because of his love for trains. I can remember him leading us in cadence and song as we ran during PT. His bugle skills lacked, but not his enthusiasm while he blew it. It was full of dents and dings from his rough landings during our airborne operations, but it never sounded more beautiful than after a long day in the field. He was a God loving man and he and I shared many phone calls and emails discussing religion. RRay you are a great man and will forever be in my heart. CW3 (Ret) Mike "Duke" Dudukovich

Mike Dudukovich
Nov 30, 2023



Ray was a plank holder of Bluegrass Chapter 99, Special Forces Association, and the first Chapter Secretary. Ray's contribution and selfless service was instrumental in helping the Chapter grow, and more than that, he became a close personal friend. Ray and Renee hosted the Chapter for a visit to tour and share in his railroad and home in 2021, and it was then that I realized it would take me a lifetime plus some, to develop half the skills Ray had had. He was

an example of what a man of God should be, and he will continue to inspire me the rest of mine. God bless him, Renee, and all their family and friends, COL(Ret) Don Wolfe, DOL

COL(Ret) Don Wolfe

Nov 22, 2023



I first met Ray in 1997, and we quickly became friends. He not only challenged and enhanced my existing love of model railroading but taught me much about life. He was truly a mentor. A month ago, my wife and I visited Ray and Renee, and even in declining health he ministered to us with incredible strength and passion for our Lord Jesus. Because the hobby of model railroading was what initiated our friendship, I am blessed to carry on his memory on my model railroad with several buildings he and Renee built. This past September, he painted for me what, (we didn't know at the time) would be his last two HO scale paint jobs. He always strove for accuracy in his modeling and lamented that his declining dexterity prevented him from delivering locos that lived up to his standards.

One last example of his commitment to excellence, his friendship, and his wit, was given to me just two before he passed. I shared with him a picture of the Soo Line Second Class depot I built recently and named Grosser, as a tribute to him and Renee, his witty response was. Brother Your depot is backwards. The operator's office should be track side. If you are depicting the depot as having been moved it would have to be moved off of the railroad property to shed the tax liabilities. Just an observation. To which I responded. The original mainline is what the caboose is sitting on. Because my fictional railroad uses the depot for its offices, it has no need to be moved. It's a win win. His final earthly response to me was. Now that is acceptable. I am very pleased to see you have thought this through. Up until the very end, challenging me to be a better model railroader. Rest in peace my Friend.

Greg Terhaar
Dec 1, 2023

I only knew Ray as a soldier and he was a great one. With all respect to his other accomplishments, here is why. General Creighton Abrams, US Military Commander in Vietnam, often said that soldiering is an affair of the heart. Ray had the heart of a soldier.

MG Michael W. Davidson, USA
Nov 23, 2023

I'm very sorry to hear about Ray's passing on November 19. As Fred mentions, Ray and Renee have many friends here in Cincinnati Division 7. Years ago we loved seeing them and their spectacular traveling Soo Line HO layout at local train shows. Also as Fred mentions, many of us have visited their home multiple times to enjoy their wonderful fellowship and their various HO, O and Large Scale layouts. One trip sometime prior to 2005 was via a combination of self-drive and small buses generously provided by Bob Lawson. I'll never forget Ray singing to us while playing his guitar. We ran another excursion on June 9, 2007 using a big over-the-road bus. That was memorable as part of the bus dropped into a ditch while trying to navigate the tight turns in the gravel road in front of their house - then later tree branches scraped the roof of the bus. Ray and Renee's modeling and hospitality are legendary. Ray will be missed.

John Burchnall, NMRA Life Member

Fred, Frank, thank you for letting me know about this loss. These notices are getting harder and harder to take, and this one is especially tough for me. I will miss Ray very much. I'm glad we had the opportunity to feature his and Renee's work so many times in the NMRA Calendar and elsewhere.

Mike Brestel HLM
NMRA President, 2006-2012

We have some sad news to share with you in this email. A little more than two months ago, we were told that Ray Grosser, MMR 362, was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. Late yesterday we found out that he had passed away. His obituary is at this link: <https://www.morrisandhislope.com/obituaries/raymond-grosser> Although Ray & his wife Renee lived in Eubank, Kentucky, which falls in Division 10's area, they were good, close friends of Division 8. I know many people in Division 7, Division 8, Division 10, and beyond have been to their home and toured both the indoor and outdoor layouts, so please feel free to pass the news along to your own groups.

It was a sad day when I learned about Ray's terminal illness. Today is an even sadder day for us and for the model railroad community. Barbara and I will always remember how gracious he

was when we visited the home he shared with Renee. Everyone enjoyed our time riding trains, viewing the layouts, and talking with them about almost anything. Perhaps the only disagreement Ray and I ever had was that he enjoyed jumping out of perfectly good airplanes with nothing but a bit of silk slung to his back.

Shortly after we first learned of his illness, I shared these Ray Grosser videos with the Division 8 membership, so I thought you and some of your folx might like to take a peek at them as well, especially if you or your folx never had the opportunity to meet him:

Introduction to the Soo Line: Model Railroad Lighting Techniques (01:43)

This video is several years old. Much older than what the date on the YouTube posting would lead you to believe. It's a teaser from an old Alan Keller video on Model Railroad Academy and highlights Ray & Renee's long gone HO scale traveling layout.

https://youtu.be/45kfioW6-Tc?si=0_4Q92tbse3UIvnu

Grosser (05:00)

Stew Windstandley from Division 10 created this video during our joint Division 8/Division 10 picnic at the Grosser's in August 2018.

<https://youtu.be/2ogvCZTRe9Q?si=jAHedslNrmKy5cvU>

01 August 2021 NMRA Division 10 Annual Meet (04:05)

Looks like Bob Frankrone (Author of the "Love Those Loads" column) had himself an awesome time on Sunday, visiting with Ray and Renee' Grosser and the Division 10 group.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKLAiavC0jc>

24 July, Steaming the H 10 (04:48)

A phun day running trains at the Grosser's outdoor riding layout earlier this month. As previously reported, Ray & Renee' have sold off their locomotive, but they're still open for others to bring their equipment for a run 'round the layout.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMxpgaRTal8>

There goes Ray Grosser and friends on their jumps! And Jim Moore! (04:04)

Check out this video from 12 years ago! This one doesn't have anything to do with model railroading other than to celebrate the life of an awesome model railroader and great friend. And that's enough for me. Ray's the first one out the door. Looks to me like he was also the most confident going out the door. I sure wish they'd subtitled this one. It's hard to hear all the answers Ray is giving before hanging outside the airplane on the wing strut. But, I'm pretty sure I heard that with this jump, he will have completed 188 parachute jumps in half a dozen countries.

<https://youtu.be/fQDFK7tm1xo?si=mLc27n7H0X2NWXog>

Fred Soward, MMR®

Central District Director

National Model Railroad Association