

WALTER 'RAY' GEIGER



Ray Geiger went to be with Jesus on the morning of June 29, 2020. He was born on April 8, 1939 in Hilliard, the son of Clara Hodges Geiger and Frank Geiger of Hilliard. He was the beloved brother to James (Jim) I. Geiger, Robert (Bob) R. Geiger, Cecil J. Geiger, Walter (W.B) Williams and Glenda R. Robinson. He graduated as Valedictorian of Callahan High School, where he was Captain of the basketball team, President of his class, and loved by all his teachers and classmates. He gave his life to the Lord when he was 16 years old at Live Oak Baptist Church.

He married the love of his life, Elizabeth Johnson, on July 21, 1960; they were to celebrate their 60th anniversary in just a few short weeks. During their marriage, they had five daughters: Lisa Kay Geiger, Clara Lynn Kelly, Dr. Gigi Ann Geiger, Gretchen Rae Geiger Loden and Kersti G. Kelly. Throughout his life, he was a man of integrity, honor, and faith, and family was everything to him. He and his family faithfully attended as members of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville for many years and later, were members of FBC of Callahan and First Baptist Bolougne.

He had an incredible work ethic and innate ability to lead, which he did in every one of his occupations. Soon after high school, he worked as a JSO homicide detective for 13 years (1960-1973) and then, went into the trucking industry, where he worked for 25 years. He completed many law enforcement courses at FCCJ during this time. After putting his five girls and his wife through college, he went back into police work and became a US Marshall for the federal government in Jacksonville, and then, later became Sheriff of Nassau County, where he took office December 15, 1992. He served Nassau County as Sheriff for three terms before deciding to retire on January 3, 2005. It was such a difficult decision for him because he absolutely loved the people of Nassau County and serving them as Sheriff, and was committed to being a man who they could depend and be proud. While Sheriff, he proudly served as Treasurer on the Florida Sheriff Association and was a man of honor. Out of all of his accomplishments and honors, he was most proud of his beautiful wife and five girls, his sons-in-law and his grandchildren. He left a godly legacy for generations to come because he was a man of action, not just words.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Elizabeth; daughters and their families, Lisa; Lindi and Michael Kelly (children, Michael, Forrest and Madison Kelly); Gigi and Art Bautista (children, Jaymi (Hunter) Whitaker (great-grandson Webb) and Alexandra); Gretchen Rae and Steve Loden (children Lexa Rae (Tyson) Herron, Cole, Cade and Gray); and Kersti and David Kelly (children, Ty (Haley) Kelly (great-grandsons Kash and Kannon), Brooklyn (Nate) Brecklin (great-grandson Dawson); and a sister Glenda R. Robinson. He was preceded in death by his parents; and brothers.

Pallbearers will be Ty Kelly, Forrest Kelly, Cole Loden, Cade Loden, Gray Loden, Tyson Herron, Nate Brecklin and Hunter Whitaker.

Viewing will be held Sunday, July 5, from 5-8 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Fernandina. The home-going celebration will be held Monday, July 6 at 11 a.m. also at the church. Interment will follow at Jones Cemetery in Callahan.

Arrangements by Nassau Funeral Home, 541720 US 1, Callahan, 879-1770.

Visit www.nassaufh.com to sign the family's guest book.