

Specialist James Carl “Jimmy” Ray, Sr. (1946-2018)

Jimmy was born November 18, 1946 to James A. and Donna J. Ray, Jr. He attended Western Hills High School, graduating during June 1964.

That same month, at 17 years of age, Jimmy enlisted in the United States Air Force, serving in warehouse management and in the Air Police during the Vietnam War. He was honorably discharged on August 16, 1965 as an Airman 3rd Class.

From May to November 1968, he worked as a truck mechanic at Key GMC Truck Sales. He then worked as a truck driver and mechanic for Runtz Meat Company until they went on strike during February 1972. For two months, he worked for Herman Kemper Meats, but returned to Runtz in July 1972. By June 1973, his father-in-law, Cincinnati Police Specialist Lelias “Lee” Rarden, talked him into taking the Police test.



Jimmy joined the Cincinnati Police Division as a Police Recruit on July 1, 1973. On November 25, 1973, he was promoted to Patrolman, issued Badge Number 599, and assigned to District 1 (310 Lincoln Park Drive). Little more than a year later, he rotated to District 5 (1012 Ludlow Avenue); where he would serve the rest of his career. Within 6 years, he was a respected member of the District 5 Investigative Unit and considered an expert on stained glass thefts. On July 29, 1990, he was promoted to Police Specialist and issued Badge Number PS-210. Specialist Ray suffered a major heart attack in 1992, had surgery, and on February 2, 1993 retired with almost 21¼ years of service to his country and community and 27 letters of appreciation and/or commendation.

During June 2013, Specialist Ray was hospitalized with heart issues and received a pacemaker and defibrillator. He passed away on January 1, 2018.

He was predeceased by his wife of 44 years, Marcelyn E. “Marcie” (Rarden) Ray (2011). Specialist Ray is survived by his sons, James C. (Reiko) Ray, Jr. and Cincinnati Police Officer Jeffrey L. Ray; grandchildren, Patrick, Meghan, Tyler, and Kyle Ray; and sister, Patricia Prichard.

Visitation will be held 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at the Neidhard-Minges Funeral Home at [3155 Harrison Avenue](#) in Westwood. FOP and Masonic services will be held at 11 a.m.

Memorials may be made to the [American Heart Association](#).