

William Ray Corley

January 2, 1945 - May 3, 2026

William Ray Corley, 81, of Sunnyside, Georgia, passed away peacefully, Sunday, May 3, 2026, at home surrounded by many loved ones.

Ray was born on January 2, 1945, in Marietta, Georgia. He is preceded in death by his parents, James Bartow Corley and Margaret Ruth Smith, daughter, Cathy Lynn Corley and grandson, Matthew Todd Corley.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Bonnie Corley; children and their spouses, Clifford and Wanda Corley, Michael and Dawn Corley, Wade and Stacey Corley; many grandchildren, and great grandchildren; cousin, Barbara Smith; brother and his wife, Pete and Jeanette Corley; and many nieces and nephews and extended family.

Ray was a hardworking man. Throughout his life, he had always strived to gain knowledge and pass it along to the people he met. This began early in his life, in the fifth grade, he had an opportunity through the 4H program to raise chickens in a competition. He went on to win an award and a cash prize of \$25. With these earnings, he bought his very first train set, which began one of his many cherished collections. Over the years he shared his passion for nature and adventure with many during his days as a Scoutmaster for the Boy Scout Troop #8. He pursued studies at Georgia Tech. He later went on to begin a career as a foreman with the Georgia D.O.T in April of 1963 until his

retirement in December of 1998. He was also passionate about helping others in need and participating in many cancer research organizations. He was very active within churches, from West Sunnyside Holiness where he grew up, to Sunnyside UMC, and Churches led by his son, Wade. One of his favorite achievements was marrying the love of his life, Bonnie, on June 15th, 1963. They spent 63 years together and grew a large close-knit family. He inspired and pushed his loved ones to keep learning and growing in life. To chase their dreams and just keep moving forward. His wisdom and guidance will be cherished and missed.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at 2:00 PM from the Chapel of Haisten McCullough Funeral Home with Rev. Wade Corley officiating. Interment will follow in the West Sunnyside Holiness Cemetery.

Visitation will be on Friday, May 8, 2026, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Haisten McCullough Funeral Home.

For online condolences please visit www.haistenmcculloughfuneralhome.com.

Haisten McCullough Funeral Home, 1155 Everee Inn Road, Griffin is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

West Sunnyside Community Church

1840 Patterson Rd.
Griffin, GA 30223

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

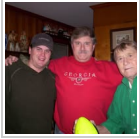
Haisten McCullough Funeral Home
1155 Everee Inn Road
Griffin, GA 30224
(770) 229-4994
<https://www.haistenmcculloughfunerals.com>

Service

MAY 9. 2:00 PM (ET)

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1155 Everee Inn Road
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Tribute Wall



“ Howard Johnson lit a candle in memory of William Ray Corley



Howard Johnson - May 10 at 11:18 AM



“ Janie Green Thiel lit a candle in memory of William Ray Corley



Janie Green Thiel - May 10 at 01:45 AM



“ Janie Green Thiel sent a virtual gift in memory of William Ray Corley



Janie Green Thiel - May 10 at 01:45 AM



“ Ray was a good man. Helped me out many times with highway issues when I was a Henry County Police officer in the 1990s. Rest in peace my friend.

Marty Bozeman - May 08 at 07:01 PM

SS

“ Shannon, Connor, & Madison Scarborough purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of William Ray Corley.



Shannon, Connor, & Madison Scarborough - May 08 at 06:22 PM

SS

“ Shannon, Connor, & Madison Scarborough planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Ray Corley.

Shannon, Connor, & Madison Scarborough - May 08 at 06:22 PM



“ 141 files added to the album Life Tributes



Haisten McCullough Funeral Home - May 07 at 03:34 PM

PB

Oh, how I loved Mr. Bill! I have great memories of riding in the state truck with him laughing and singing along with the radio on days Dad (Woody) got stuck in a meeting and couldn't pick me up from piano. He'd hand me a DOT helmet to put on and haul me to Dad's office. - Patty (Smith) Banks

Patty Banks - May 08 at 02:38 PM

ZB

“ I was just a child when my parents, Reggie & LaVonne Chung, were great friends with Uncle Bill & Aunt Bonnie. We lived in the area at the time and all of my brothers and sisters and Clifford, Mike, and Wade got to spend great times together. I remember swimming in the pond in their yard. I loved how Uncle Bill was so smart and was so involved in the Boy Scouts. He was so loving and helpful to others. God bless you and may you rest in peace, Uncle Bill!

Zena Born - May 07 at 01:48 PM

MR

“ Mr. Ray was a kind soul and sweet gentleman. We will definitely miss his stories at the Waffle House as he sat at the low bar drinking his cup of coffee.

Melissa Reese - May 07 at 08:39 AM

RS

“ Sorry for the Corley family's loss he was a good man.

Richard Summerfield - May 06 at 07:24 PM

LC

“ Bill was one of my best friends in our Sunnyside years. Reg and Bill both worked with the DOT and Bonnie and I worked "at home" with our many children.(8 in all) Together we were a "family". Bill is the one I called if the well run dry, or something needed fixing. My favorite memory was sitting in the pump house on one of those occasions talking to our best friend, Jesus! Now they are all up there talking about us! My love and prayers for my Sunnyside family.

LaVonne Chung - May 06 at 12:10 PM

SB

“ Bonnie, I'm so sorry to hear of Ray's passing. There have been so many good memories of us. I was just thinking about all of us and the good times we had. I've known Ray since I was five years old. We went to Church together and all through High School together. I'll remember them always. Ray was such a sweet person. Always kind and loving. Love you and your family.

Sondra Shiflett Branan - May 06 at 11:10 AM

RS

“ Bonnie and family, my thoughts and prayers are with you all. I have many fond memories of growing up going to Sunnyside School and West Sunnyside church. Ray was a good person and outstanding role model for our youth. Deepest sympathy.

Ruby Shavers - May 06 at 09:35 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of William Ray Corley.



May 05 at 06:23 PM

WB

“ I am saddened to learn of Mr. Rays passing. He was the kindest man you could ever meet. We talked often when he stopped in my office. Talking with me about my dad and the many stories and memories he had. To Ms Bonnie, Cliff, Michael and Wade my thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. Im sorry I will be unable to attend as I am out of town. If there is anything I can do please dont hesitate to reach out.

Wendy Beddingfield - May 05 at 06:16 PM

JF

“ *A great man, a great mentor, great family, man and church going soul Ray will be missed very much by a lot of people. We always had a smile and something good to say. He never put Nobody down. He kept it real.*

Joseph Folds - May 05 at 05:38 PM