



Raymond "Big Ray" Haywood

July 2, 1980 - February 24, 2021

Raymond "Big Ray" Haywood, age 40 of Harrison, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at the MidMichigan Medical Center in Clare. He was born the son of David Michael Haywood and Jacqueline F. Paquette on July 2, 1980 in Dearborn. Big Ray was influential in the Detroit and local music scene being the Front Man, Sound Wave Generator and Maker of the group, "Big Ray and the Motor City Kings" since 2007. He loved music especially playing his saxophone; he liked to fish, read comic books, and spending time tending his garden and flowers. Above everything else, Big Ray enjoyed spending time with his family and the cherished times he spent with his son Weston.

Survivors include his son Weston; his parents Jacqueline (David) Schmidt of Farwell and David Haywood of Taylor; his Fiancée Charlann Walker of Harrison who he became engaged to last summer; his sister Megan Renee Haywood of Westland; a friend like a brother Jason Bone; Weston's grandparents Jim and Nancy Price and several aunts, uncles and cousins. Big Ray was predeceased by his maternal grandparents Robert Paquette and Florence Schick.

Visitation for Big Ray will be held at the Clare Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home on Friday, February 26, 2021 from 5 to 9 P.M. Social Distancing and wearing of masks will be encouraged. Services will be held privately for his family. Those wishing to make a memorial contribution may do so to his mother Jacqueline Schmidt or through the GoFundMe donation page (<https://g>

ofund.me/8a797eec) that has been established. Online condolences may be left at www.stephenson-wyman.com

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **26**. 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Clare)

1005 North McEwan St.

Clare, MI 48617

(989) 386-7451

wymanfh@chartermi.net

<https://www.stephenson-wyman.com/>

Tribute Wall

DO

“ *Rest in Peace Big Man I remember the first and last time I saw you play, and it was always an exceptional experience. May the Lord bless your soul and give you Salvation -*

Don - August 17, 2024 at 04:43 PM

LM

“ *We were so saddened to hear about Big Ray, when we arrived here at the Tawas Blues by the Bay Fest 2021. Ray is the one we looked forward to seeing and hearing every year. The Blues Fest will never be the same without him. God bless his family and all who loved him. He will be sorely missed. He touched so many people with his many talents and kindness.*

Lydia Enos McGregor - August 28, 2021 at 02:25 PM

BS

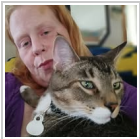
“ *FROM Brad and Jill.. Can't believe that I just found out, Big Ray, what can I say a true friend, RIP RAY, wow.*

Brad Saunders - May 01, 2021 at 06:17 PM

AC

“ To Rays Family and Son, You have my most sincere condolences and my heart is saddened at his loss. He was a wonderful man, and I know he was a great Father!. I was just messaging him a few weeks ago about life and getting to play some of that great music that he loved. I played in the Blues Breakers Band in Houghton with him, and had some great experiences during that time. In that group we were able to play some great music. His Love for the Blues and great fellowship will never be forgotten. I have a few recordings we did at that time that are played for my children often. I pray that God will grant you solace and guidance.

Alan Cross - March 02, 2021 at 11:46 AM



“ Dawn Faulkner lit a candle in memory of Raymond "Big Ray" Haywood



Dawn Faulkner - March 01, 2021 at 09:14 AM

MR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Michelle Rosebush - February 28, 2021 at 05:37 PM

BO

“ *My condolences to Ray's loved ones. Especially his son. My heart goes out to you. Our family has fond memories of your dad sharing his love of music while here in the UP.*



Beth Olson - February 27, 2021 at 09:07 AM

SU

Loved following the Breakers Blues Band! Ray was an awesome entertainer!

Sue - March 05, 2021 at 06:42 AM

HJ

“ *Sending love, prayers and sympathy to Weston, Jackie, Dave, Megan-this loss is unimaginable and we grieve for you and with you. Ray was a loving, dedicated devoted son, parent, partner-he touched so many lives in so many ways through his music and his gentle soul. Thinking of you all and praying for peace, we know Ray is with his beloved grandparents and playing sax, bringing joy to the heavens. XOXO*

Holli jezewski - February 26, 2021 at 01:32 PM

PH

“ PAMELA A HAYWOOD lit a candle in memory of Raymond "Big Ray" Haywood



PAMELA A HAYWOOD - February 26, 2021 at 01:08 PM

AG

“ Alen, Kim, Benjamin, and Ava Grebovic purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Raymond "Big Ray" Haywood.



Alen, Kim, Benjamin, and Ava Grebovic - February 26, 2021 at 10:31 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond "Big Ray" Haywood.



February 26, 2021 at 09:48 AM

YF

“ Your Kehres Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Raymond "Big Ray" Haywood.



Your Kehres Family - February 26, 2021 at 09:13 AM

PA

“ *Patty lit a candle in memory of Raymond "Big Ray" Haywood*



patty - February 26, 2021 at 02:40 AM

PA

“ *Prayers to your family Ray, you will be missed by so many people who loved you. Aunt Debbie is there to help you through this tuff time. Thank you for the great music you truly are a star and now an angel in heaven. RIP Ray. Love, Patty & Dan 🙏🏻🙏🏻*

pat - February 26, 2021 at 01:53 AM

RO

I am shocked and saddened by the passing of Big Ray. He was such a talented on saxophone 🎷 player with a great voice. I love dancing so I would follow BRTMCK. My deepest sympathy and prayers to his son, parents, and friends. We lost a kind, gifted soul, but heaven gained a super star. Rip Ray. Roxy

Roxanne - March 01, 2021 at 01:41 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond "Big Ray" Haywood.*



February 25, 2021 at 09:53 PM

MA

“ I am deeply saddened by the news. Ray's influence has profoundly shaped my life. The world is less without him. My sympathies to family and friends!

Matt - February 25, 2021 at 07:54 PM

KS

“ Ray was truly talented, and bold in his actions. Not a personality to be forgotten

Ken Showler - February 25, 2021 at 07:21 PM

KS

I'll never forgot meeting him up at Michigan Tech. He said "wait..your name's Showler? Do you play any instruments?". I ended up in a band with him for 2 years.

Ken Showler - February 25, 2021 at 07:36 PM

MG

“ So very sorry to hear this prayers and thoughts to the family of Big Ray you will definitely be missed!



Mary Glaser - February 25, 2021 at 03:12 PM

MG



Mary Glaser - February 25, 2021 at 03:13 PM

RS

“ My deepest sympathy "Big Ray" and family. Heaven just got the king of 🎷 saxophone back. God speed Ray.



Rebecca Shear - February 25, 2021 at 12:39 PM

LP

“ Ray was the highlight of our summer at the Blues by the Bay festival. He was a caring and talented person who will be sorely missed.

Linda Pawlik - February 25, 2021 at 11:18 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Raymond "Big Ray" Haywood.



February 25, 2021 at 11:15 AM

TB

“ The entire Tawas Blues by the Bay Board of Directors, along with our spouses, express our deepest sympathy and condolences to all of Big Ray's family. Jackie, Weston, and the entire family is in our thoughts and prayers. A talented musician and very enjoyable entertainer gone too soon. RIP!

Tiffany & Tim Bischoff (Blues by the Bay - Tawas)

Tiffany Bischoff - February 25, 2021 at 10:21 AM



“ *East Tawas Blues Festival - What power Big Ray had with his mighty voice and saxophone. He could captivate an audience in a second. I loved watching him dance on the tables with that sax. RIP Big Ray. You will be missed by more people than you can imagine.*

Ryn Rupprecht - February 25, 2021 at 08:44 AM



“ *Sean Schmidt lit a candle in memory of Raymond "Big Ray" Haywood*



Sean Schmidt - February 24, 2021 at 10:30 PM



My brother big Ray will be missed by so many! R.i.p. Ra's!





Ralph copley - February 25, 2021 at 10:56 AM



“ *My deepest condolences to the family. I will everyone in my prayers.*

Polly miller - February 24, 2021 at 09:23 PM

WP

“ Our deepest condolences to Jackie, Dave, Megan and Charlann and to Big Ray’s father. how we enjoyed his music during the Summer. Ray was a very talented man and a great contributor to the resilience of the City of Detroit and the Metro area. We thank him for that and for the smiles and toe tapping he brought to us  . A young man gone too soon.   

Love and prayers to you,
Walt and Joanne Plajstek

walt & Joanne Plajstek - February 24, 2021 at 07:16 PM

MY

So sorry to hear this. We always enjoyed listening and talking to Ray. We surely will miss him. Music on the streets in Clare will never be the same. So sad. Martha and John Youstra

Martha Youstra - February 24, 2021 at 10:10 PM

SS

Great Guy and Saxman! He is truly missed!

Sam the Saxman - February 27, 2021 at 05:42 PM

KS

Awesome sax player! He was one of our favorites to see play several times in the summer. His band and his sax never got old. He’s leaving a big hole in the music scene that’s for sure. He touched a lot of people with his music. His son should be very proud!

Ken Stark - February 28, 2021 at 02:13 PM

PS

My condolences to big rays family.. I just heard that ray has passed.. Ray was a very talented musician he is what, I call a stylist and a great front man... show man, for sure.. he definitely took control of the stage and that sax.. He leaves a big void in the music Business and in the blues circuit.. that void will never be filled.. thanks for the great music and all the good times. and memories.... RIP RAY...Paul and Jamie schultz

paul schultz - June 01, 2021 at 06:07 PM

TK

I too just heard of Ray's passing from Motor City Josh. Wow, what a talent! Saw him for the first time in Allen Park on a cold winter's night. I followed them ever since. Saw him downriver a few times after that. He was great and so young to leave this earth. Still can't believe it.

Terry Lee Konarska - July 25, 2022 at 05:06 PM