



Ray M. Atkins

September 3, 1925 - October 23, 2015

Ray M. Atkins, 90, of Fairborn passed away peacefully on Friday October 23, 2015 at his home. Ray was born September 3, 1925 in Harrison County, Iowa to Ray and Alta (Poe) Atkins. Ray grew up in and around Woodbine, Iowa, attending country school and helping his Dad farm, using horses. Ray graduated from Woodbine High School in 1942 and enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1943. During World War II, he served with the 14th Air Force Flying Tigers as a ball turret gunner aboard the B24 "Manhattan Maiden", flying combat missions and fuel missions over the "Hump" of Burma. The friendships he formed as a Flying Tiger continued throughout his life with numerous reunions, including the Memorial Dedication of the plaque to the "Manhattan Maiden" crew in 1989 at the U.S. Air Force Museum in Dayton. Recalled by the Air Force in 1951, Ray served as gunnery instructor on every Strategic Air Command bomber from the B29 through the B52. Ray retired from the Air Force in 1975 after 30 years of service. Ray was a competitor, playing football, basketball, and boxing in High School and playing for the University of Omaha football team. While in the Air Force he played fast-pitch softball, volleyball, basketball, and was a championship table tennis player. After retirement he was an avid golfer and bowler, and rolled a perfect 300 game in 1995 at the age of 70. Ray will be remembered and respected as a generous man of integrity and honor and as a loving and devoted husband and father. Ray is survived by his bride of 68 years, Kathryn; son Ray (Erin) of Box Elder, South Dakota; son Terrance of Fairborn; grandson Joseph (Betty)

of Omaha, Nebraska; grandson Michael (Christa) of Camp Pendleton, California; two great-grandchildren; and numerous beloved nieces and nephews. Ray was preceded in death by his parents; and older sisters Ethel Gosch and Darlene Steckelberg. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Hospice of Dayton, whose nurses provided such loving home care during his last week of life.

Cemetery Details

Enon Cemetery

6013 Dayton Springfield Rd
Springfield, OH 45502
(937) 864-2881

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **30**. 12:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Funeral Home
7055 Dayton Road
Enon, OH 45323
(937) 864-2288

Funeral Service

OCT **30**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Funeral Home
7055 Dayton Road
Enon, OH 45323
(937) 864-2288

Tribute Wall



“ Adkins Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ray M. Atkins



Adkins Funeral Home - October 29, 2015 at 09:09 PM



“ 70 files added to the album Life Tributes



Adkins Funeral Home - October 29, 2015 at 08:47 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ray M. Atkins.



October 29, 2015 at 07:45 PM

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“ *TSD Team, Union Pacific Railroad purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ray M. Atkins.*



TSD Team, Union Pacific Railroad - October 27, 2015 at 01:18 PM