



Raymond Charles FitzGerald

June 2, 2024

It is with great sorrow that we announce the death of Raymond Charles FitzGerald, who passed away on June 2, 2024, at the age of 61, leaving his family and friends to mourn.

He was predeceased by his father Edmond FitzGerald, MD of Easton, Maryland.

He is survived by his mother, Mary Ann Sparks, his daughter, Madyson FitzGerald, and his siblings Margaret FitzGerald, Deborah Henson (FitzGerald), Mary FitzGerald, David FitzGerald, Christopher FitzGerald, and Matthew FitzGerald. He is also survived by his former wife, Jennifer Garcia; and his nieces and nephews, Taylor, Graham, and Davis Knaub, as well as Alex and Elizabeth Henson.

Having graduated from Easton High School in 1981 and then Gettysburg College in 1985, Ray began working for eSignal in the Washington, DC area in 1991. He later moved to San Francisco in 1992, after accepting a work transfer. He retired from eSignal in 2017 after surviving multiple rounds of layoffs. Ray took great pride in his success and longevity in the company.

Ray was an active athlete his whole life. He enjoyed all recreational sports during his youth both on land and water. He was a Talbot County baseball (Rotary) and football player as a youngster, and a varsity soccer player in high

school. He said that he learned fundamental life lessons during that time, one of which was, "Showing up on time means being early!" During his Gettysburg college career, he was part of the college's original rugby team and was key in kicking the winning goal his senior year at the last game-a triumph he loved reliving. Also while at Gettysburg, he was devoted to his fraternity, Phi Delta Theta, and to his fraternity brothers, many of whom remained lifelong friends. Sports continued to be an important part of his life in California. He played basketball (The Round Bellies), softball, and golf. Ray was a true team player.

It was also in California that Ray married and then became a father to "Mady." She was the joy of his life. And as he transitioned away from playing sports; he transitioned further into his role as a father, channeling his passion and drive into his partnership with his daughter. Together, she too excelled in sports, and Ray followed all of her life successes with overwhelming pride.

Lastly, like his father, Ray was also known for his humor, and in difficult situations, whether over the phone or in person, he could make a comment that would send everyone into hysterics. We loved that about him.

He will be greatly missed.

The family will receive guests and friends on Saturday, June 22, 2024, from 10:30am to 11:30am at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, 200 S. Harrison St. Easton, where a service will follow at 11:30. Interment will take place at Oxford Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Ray's honor to the Gettysburg College Rugby Team - <https://www.gettysburg.edu/giving/>

Cemetery Details

Oxford Cemetery

Oxford Cemetery Rd
Oxford, MD 21654

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 22. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (est)

Easton Location
200 S Harrison St
Easton, MD 21601
(410) 822-3131
info@fhfuneralhome.com

Memorial Service

JUN 22. 11:30 AM (est)

Easton Location
200 S Harrison St
Easton, MD 21601
(410) 822-3131
info@fhfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Raymond Charles FitzGerald*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - June 21, 2024 at 02:12 PM

CS

“ *I played in that rugby tournament with Ray. Along with lots of other games. Ray & I were friends, fraternity brothers (Phi Delta Theta) and teammates on the Gettysburg Rugby Club. We were a rag tag group, but as I recall we played over twenty games without a loss. We may have been classmates as well, but I honestly can't recall much from the academic part of our college years. That kick was like a scene out of the movie Field of Dreams. Time seemed to stand still as we all watched Ray's kick sail through the uprights to secure the victory and claim the Gettysburg Cup. Unfortunately time doesn't stand still and sadly we won't be seeing Ray at the Burg ever again. He'll be sorely missed with all of his vigor & enthusiasm. Here's a photo of our team after the big win. That's Ray chugging back the jug of Budweiser, the official beverage of our team. Rest in peace my friend.*

Chris Snow



Chris Snow aka Snowman - July 30, 2024 at 03:06 PM

MF

Thank you Chris for sharing this memory of our brother!

Mary FitzGerald - August 01, 2024 at 10:04 PM

CA

“ *I was a friend and rugby teammate of Ray’s at Gettysburg. He was in fact a founding member of the rugby club at the Burg. That was 40 years ago. I recently attended a Gettysburg Rugby Club match at Mt St Marys and I can report that it’s still going strong. There would be no club there now were it not for Ray and the other Delts who helped start the club, Riv, Ruffini, Skip, Tootie, Snowman, George Smith, Traut, Moogie and a few I’m sure I missed(sorry). The club is forever part of our legacy.*

I was there, in 1985, when Ray kicked a 40 meter drop goal in the waning minutes of a game against Westminster RFC to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. It was a magical moment as it allowed us to win the Gettysburg Cup tournament. There were sorority formals that night and I told Ray’s date that if she didn’t want to kiss him, I’d be happy to! Was glad to hear Ray was able to brag about it later in life, he earned that right. The attached photos are from that day.

It’s been a while but I still recall his easy demeanor, sense of humor and commitment to his friends and teammates. My deepest condolences to Ray’s family, particularly to his parents and daughter. My thoughts are with you in this difficult time, hang in there.

Regards, Chris Aherne



Chris Aherne - July 12, 2024 at 10:13 AM

MF

Thank you Chris for sharing these memories of Ray. He loved Gettysburg Rugby and all of his friends. Thank you!

Mary FitzGerald - July 13, 2024 at 03:38 PM

RT

“ I just learned of Ray's passing, and I will miss my friend very much. Ray helped me get called up at DBC (eSignal) to follow him and relocate to California from Maryland in the 90's. We were buddies when I was there, and continued to keep in touch for these decades after I moved back to the East coast.

Some of my favorite memories:

When I moved west, Ray had just moved into a condo apartment in Half Moon Bay (still unpacked boxes everywhere), and last minute invited a few of us single guys over for Thanksgiving. We went to the local grocery store and reenacted a scene from Animal House, where one guy was nominated to be "pledge representative to the social committee" (Flounder), and drove us to the "Food King." Making a scene, we tossed (literally tossed from every direction) a bunch of food into the cart, including a frozen turkey, along with "sides" such as Fritos, ice cream sandwiches and beer. We got to Ray's and discovered he had no implements to cook the turkey, so just threw it in the oven at 500 degrees or whatever (we were hungry), and when it was done, after several test and temp changes, we dug in, while watching football (probably Redskins). It was bone dry, and Ray had only one fork. Instead of sharing, I ate mine with a spoon. That Thanksgiving we were most thankful for the friendship.

We used to watch Hoosiers each season to kick off March Madness, and then pull for the Terps as they lost most bball games.

We watched Orioles games on TV (Ray was optimistic about this season), and went to Giants and 49ers games. We liked to sit in the outfield cheap seats at Candlestick to chat with Barry Bonds, and when a belligerent friend got kicked out of a Giants game for throwing something at an opposing outfielder, we claimed to have no idea who he was.

Ray and I were working the phones one afternoon, in jeopardy of

being late for a company softball game, when our boss, Fred, came by and disconnected our calls. We liked to tell people that story to illustrate how cool our boss was (priority was the game). The post-game pizza/beer celebrations were a riot. We had way too much fun working there, messing with each other, hiding fish around each others' cubicles, etc. If anyone from DBC reads this, please reach out to me. Ray would have liked that.

I agree with comments here about Ray's sense of fairness, modesty and respect, especially regarding athletics. It was always evident he was raised right, and he was a heck of a natural athlete.

I last texted with Ray on May 27. We always discussed with pride our daughters, their school, sports, etc. Ray had great pride in Madyson, and sent me a pic of her in a white monogrammed med school labcoat that day. Mady, I know we've never met, but I've heard a lot about you and seen a lot of pics over your 25 years. Your dad certainly loved you, wanted you to be happy perhaps more than anything, he means a lot to me, and I'm here for you if I can help you in any way. In any case, I wish you a wonderful life. (robert_troike@hotmail.com is an address I have maintained forever, and check infrequently.)

Rob Troike - June 25, 2024 at 02:03 PM

DS

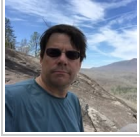
Thank you! I will make sure Mady sees this.

Debbie-One of Ray's sisters - June 25, 2024 at 11:43 PM

VR

These are wonderful and hilarious memories of Ray. Thanks for sharing💕💕

vonnie Rejae - June 26, 2024 at 04:21 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



George Hulseman - June 22, 2024 at 11:51 AM



Ray was a quite a character at Country School. I was a classmate of his until my family moved away in 7th grade, but we reconnected every once in a while after we moved back a few years later. I saw him again at his father's funeral a couple of years ago. Our class at Country School had a few high-level goofballs, myself included, but I always think of Ray as our circus ringleader. He was always popular and athletic and had a great sense of humor (and great hair). He sent me this photo a couple of years ago and then poked fun of me because I was almost obsessed with wondering who took the photo. I didn't know him well as an adult but the world is a not quite the same without him. I miss him already. Thanks, Ray!

George Hulseman - June 22, 2024 at 11:51 AM

MF

Thank you so much for posting this George!

Mary FitzGerald - June 22, 2024 at 09:08 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Raymond Charles FitzGerald.*



June 21, 2024 at 12:01 AM

JF

“ Jennifer Babcock and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raymond Charles FitzGerald.

Jennifer Babcock and family - June 21, 2024 at 12:01 AM

TF

“ The Espinoza Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Raymond Charles FitzGerald.



The Espinoza Family - June 19, 2024 at 07:19 PM

DH

“ 11 files added to the tribute wall



Deborah Henson - June 17, 2024 at 04:26 PM



“ *I wanted to share one more memory of Ray. This happened when we were either seniors or just out of high school. Sadly, it was the last time I saw him. I never got to connect with adult Ray.*

We happened to meet each other in the arcade at the Bowling Alley in Easton. Ray was playing Battlezone and had just gotten the high score. It wasn't just high, it was one of those fantastically high scores that they have to get maintenance to reset at the end of the week. Otherwise others would get discouraged because it could never be matched.

The game is a simulated tank battle in a 3D world of vector graphics. Ray's tactic was totally offensive and he kept using the radar to move towards the enemies before they even appeared.

After watching Ray, I played. I was very familiar with the game but my tactics were fully defensive. Whereas Ray moved forward most of his game, I moved backward. The interesting part was that we were both really good with our strategies. Luck was with me that day and I came to within a hundred points of Ray's fantastic score. To his credit, Ray was cheering me on the whole time.

I know we were just kids playing video games but I've always remembered that as a lesson in how to achieve the same goals using different tactics.

Wayne Thume - June 16, 2024 at 03:06 PM

DH

*Thank you Wayne for sharing that memory!
Debbie*

Deborah Henson - June 17, 2024 at 04:09 PM



“ I went to grade school and then high school with Ray. One of my best memories in Country School was staying at Ray's house in Easton and then going to the Tarzan matinee at the Avalon.

One of my mother's best memories was reminding me what a good boy Ray was when he came to my house. Ray would always stop and pick up toys before we left and did something else. Apparently I did NOT do that.

However I think the best memory is one I didn't uncover until after Ray passed and I got it from several of the girls who were in Country School with us. Apparently Bobby Sherman was a big idol for the girls and they say that Ray looked just like him. My only interest in Bobby Sherman was that his record was on a box of cereal when I was a kid. I dug around and I still have the record that I cut out of the cereal box and sure enough, he does look like Ray did then.



Wayne Thume - June 16, 2024 at 02:34 PM

DH

Ray would agree!!!!

Deborah Henson - June 17, 2024 at 04:11 PM

DJ

I don't know if you guys remember but Ray and I played little league football together. We used to ride our bikes to football practice behind Easton Middle School. Back then little league football was a pretty big deal. Talbot Football League. We used to practice with our father's undershirts over our shoulder pads. So over the years we had this everlasting argument of who had the longer bike ride to football practice. The argument being was it longer from Oxford Road to the end of Cedar Point Road where I lived or was it longer from Cedar Point Road to the end of the lane in Oaklands, where his house was. This went on for 45 years. Ray always insisting he had the longer ride. It wasn't until after his dad passed away that the truth finally came out. It was nearly impossible to win an argument with Ray. A couple years back, he actually took his rental car and measured the distances. My ride was a tenth of a mile longer. This was the only time I ever heard Ray say "OK you won. Your ride was longer." I will remember this forever. I will miss you. You were my best friend when we were little kids.

David Judd - June 21, 2024 at 07:05 PM

MF

Thank you David for sharing these memories!

Mary FitzGerald - July 13, 2024 at 03:35 PM