



Dr. Ray Farley passed away peacefully, losing his battle with cancer on Feb. 15, 2022, in Bay Harbor Islands, FL, after celebrating his 93rd birthday on Feb. 1. Dr. Farley was born in West Virginia and grew up in Tennessee, where he later earned his Bachelor's Degree from Cumberland University in Lebanon and Master's Degree from George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville. Dr. Farley joined the Army in 1952, as part of the Army Security Agency and graduated from the Army Language School in Monterrey, CA, specializing in Russian. He was dispatched to Europe in 1954, serving in Germany and Austria. After his time in Army Intelligence, he returned to Lebanon, TN, and taught history in high school. He then accepted a position at Young Harris College in Young Harris, GA, as a history professor in 1956. He held this position until 1959 when, as a Fulbright Scholar, he attended the University Institute of European Studies in Turin, Italy, studying Modern European History. In 1959, Dr. Farley returned to YHC as Dean of Instruction and Registrar, positions he

held until 1961, when he decided to go to Florida State University for his Ph.D. Returning to YHC in 1964, Dr. Farley resumed his previous role, and in 1967, he was appointed Dean of the college. In 1971, Dr. Farley was elected President of YHC, a role he held for two decades. He served on numerous committees and boards within the local community, as well as the higher education community. Dr. Farley was a member of Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church in Young Harris and served on every committee there, as well as taught Sunday School for many years. After retiring in 1991, Dr. Farley eventually moved to Chattanooga, TN. In 2020, he relocated to spend more time with his daughter Susan in the Miami, FL, area.

Dr. Farley was appointed Lieutenant Colonel, Aide de Camp, Governor's Staff, 1983. He received the Award of the Phoenix from Cumberland University in 1991. He also was honored as a Hometown Hero from Modern Woodmen in 2020 and was the recipient of the Nancy Louise Haynes Stephens Sanderson Robertson Outstanding Friend Award by the Young Harris College Alumni Association in 2021 for his many years of dedication to his beloved college.

Dr. Farley was a man of high integrity, who quietly and deeply cared for others. He had a wonderful duality to him—on one hand being a respected and extremely knowledgeable educator, and on the other a light-hearted adventurer filled with joie de vivre. As he once said in an interview for YHC, fondly reminiscing about his time on campus, “individuals may recall [some of my] meaningful memories and frown or smile.” If you lived up to his high expectations, you surely would deserve to have a proud smile.

His insightful outlook on life is one which those who knew him will always strive to emulate. He believed in and advocated for the transformative powers of academics, travel and tolerance.

Dr. Farley is preceded in death by his siblings—James Farley, Leonard Ballard and Nannie Smith—and his parents, Ada and James Farley. His legacy lives on through the lives of his surviving relatives—daughter and son-in-law Susan and Art Krebs; granddaughter Hailey Rogers; step-grandchildren Ela Krebs-Balser and AJ Krebs; two very dear nieces, Marlene Hare and Marie Farley; and his many extended family members. His memory will continue to guide the lives of his family, friends, students and mentees.

A memorial service is being planned for April 16, 2022, 2 p.m. at Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church, Young Harris College, Young Harris, GA.

The family asks in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to Young Harris College's Ray Farley Friends of the Fine Arts Travel Abroad Fund at <https://www.yhc.edu/giving/online-giving> Or you can mail a check to:

Young Harris College
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Young Harris, GA 30582