



Raymond Douglas Cotton

December 8, 1942 - March 22, 2022

Raymond Douglas Cotton, of Arlington, Virginia passed away on March 22, 2022. He is preceded in death by his mother, Betty (Braun) Cotton and father, Sol Cotton and his niece Ellen Donofrio-Lenoir. Ray is survived by his children, Brandon Cotton, Joshua Cotton (Laura), Michelle C. Barr (Jeff) and Rachel Cotton; his siblings, Kenneth Cotton (Donna) and Judy Donofrio (Louis); his granddaughters, Juliette Barr and Scarlett Barr; and his nephew Brett Cotton, niece Tammy Jennings, and nephew Scott Donofrio.

Ray grew up in Neptune City, New Jersey and graduated from Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey where he earned a BA in Psychology. Ray was the first person in the history of Harvard University to have earned degrees from both its law school (JD) and its graduate School of Public Health (MSPH). He was a loving father, son, brother, and friend, and was a successful lawyer for over 50 years. Ray was also an avid reader, a diner enthusiast and a news buff - he was known to read multiple papers cover-to-cover, daily and would often read the local papers thoroughly when traveling. He loved making friends and never knew a stranger.

If you asked Ray, his greatest accomplishment wasn't his legal legacy or his career; it was being a father. Ray had four children who he cherished above all else. That love grew to include Laura (his third daughter) after marrying Joshua and Jeff (his third son) after marrying Michelle.

Ray and his best friend and fellow attorney, Joseph St. Veltri, would speak on the phone every Sunday. They had a favorite quote they would often discuss, when ruminating on the impermanence of life, from a poem by philosopher Omar Khayyam, "I came like Water, and like Wind I go."

A graveside service will be held at King David Memorial Gardens (Hollywood Rd, Falls Church, VA 22043) on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 1:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made the Red Cross to support their humanitarian efforts. Ray would be honored for you to celebrate his life and honor his interest in current events impacting humanity with a donation.

Cemetery Details

King David Memorial Gardens

Hollywood Rd.
FALLS CHURCH
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22043

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAR 29. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

King David Memorial Gardens
Hollywood Rd.
FALLS CHURCH
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22043

Tribute Wall



“ *Raymond Douglas Cotton*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *Mr. Cotton always welcomed me into his home. I'll always remember celebrating my first Hanukkah with the Cotton Family! Mr. Cotton would never blink an eye if Michelle invited me to join them for dinner at Clyde's (his fave spot), at Carlyle, or at the house. He welcomed me with open arms on family vacations, holidays, and even to DC to celebrate the inauguration of President Obama with Michelle at his office downtown. Mr. Cotton always made a point to ask me about my family, my plans, my goals and my career. He was a Father through and through and even gave me advice at times. Mr. Cotton will certainly be missed and my thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this time.*

Amy Robinson - March 29, 2022 at 08:20 AM



“ *Ray was a dear friend, a confidante, and a dear and great man who was always happy to help others. His passing is a great loss to all who knew and loved him.*

Ed BonGiovanni

Ed BonGiovanni - March 27, 2022 at 01:57 PM