



Rev. Dr. Ryan Eugene Wagers

February 17, 1966 - August 28, 2021

Reverend Dr. Ryan Eugene Wagers, 55, of Salisbury, NC passed away Saturday August 28, after a courageous five year battle with stage four colon cancer.

Born February 17, 1966, in Wooster, OH, to Rex Wagers of New Port Richey, FL and the late Ruth Falb Wagers.

Ryan graduated from Sullivan South High School, Kingsport, TN. He received his Masters in Divinity from Southern Baptist Seminary, Nashville, TN, served his Fellowship at Vanderbilt VA Medical Center, also in Nashville, TN and served as Chief of Chaplain Services at the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center, Clarksburg, WV.

One of the most selfless and loyal individuals; Reverend Dr. Ryan Wagers passionately served veterans with honor until the very end as chief of chaplains at W. G. Hefner VA Medical Center, in Salisbury. Where he had a host of friends he referred to as his "VA Family".

Those left to cherish his memory in addition to his father are the love of his life April Michele Sams Wagers; bonus sons Logan Montgomery of Denver, CO and Jordan Montgomery of Jonesborough, TN; step mother Marilyn Wagers of New Port Richey, FL; brother, Ross Wagers and wife Deanna of Greenville, SC; his father and mother-in-love Charles and Joyce Sams of Kingsport, TN, a number of nieces and nephews and his loyal companion and buddy Scout. Special thank you to Ryan's home hospice nurses Beverly, Samantha and Sharon. And the many friends along the way that Ryan considered family.

To know Ryan was to know a little bit of heaven on earth. He passionately lived his life; finding the positive in any situation. In circumstances such as cancer, where one would think positives were hard to find, Ryan did not. He found blessings every chance he got. And when he couldn't find one, he chose to be one to someone else instead. He appreciated the opportunity of "another day" and the sunrise that signified it. Known for sending the most elaborate and beautiful flower arrangements to those he loved and appreciated, he also enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Ryan was passionate about Colon Cancer Awareness and the difference getting checked early can make. In memory of Ryan and in honor of his courageous battle, please reach out to your own loved ones and talk to them about getting checked before it's too late. And if you are of age, please don't wait. It can make all the difference in the world.

The family will receive friends from 3-4pm on Friday September 3, at Summersett Funeral Home. A memorial officiated by Rev. Henry Rutledge and Rev. Gary Willeford, both dear friends and Chaplains at the W. G. Hefner VA Medical Center, will immediately follow in the Summersett Memorial Chapel. Those attending are strongly urged to wear a mask.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Wagers family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 3. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Summersett Funeral Home
1315 W. Innes St.
Salisbury, NC 28144
(704) 633-2111
<https://www.summersettfuneralhome.com>

Memorial Service

SEP 3. 4:00 PM (ET)

Summersett Memorial Chapel
1315 W. Innes St.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Tribute Wall

Lacey Wilkins

“ Ryan probably never realized the impact he had on my life. He recognized me as a natural leader. Back when I was a youth member at Bakers Grove, he called me his “associate pastor”. He taught me a lot about leading and looking to God. He helped me understand the importance of seeking God in everything. I was just thinking of him today when a friend let me know of his passing. I’ve no doubt he heard “well done”. Sending love and prayers to his family.

Lacey Wilkins - September 03, 2021 at 11:57 PM

PB

“ Pattie & Walter Beaver lit a candle in memory of Rev. Dr. Ryan Eugene Wagers



Pattie & Walter Beaver - September 03, 2021 at 08:51 AM

HB

“ I will always remember Ryan with a smile on his face and a Starbucks in hand. We once did a community speaking engagement together in WV for a nursing group entitled Spirituality, the Final Frontier. I appreciated being a friend and colleague with him at the Clarksburg VAMC. He will be missed! Dr. Heather Brown

Heather Brown - September 02, 2021 at 06:47 PM

SH

“ *Social Work Service - VA Hospital purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Rev. Dr. Ryan Eugene Wagers.*



Social Work Service - VA Hospital - September 02, 2021 at 03:38 PM

AA

“ *We always enjoyed the visits whether on the farm or in the Wagers home. We remember the great times we had on the farm when the Falb family gathered there. As a family we remember the visit in Clarksburg when Ryan worked there; he explained his position there very well and that meant a lot to us.*

Aunt and Uncle Lorene and Gordon Amstutz - September 01, 2021 at 08:56 PM

SS

“ *Sheila and Eddie Kilgore and Sydney purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Rev. Dr. Ryan Eugene Wagers.*



Sheila and Eddie Kilgore and Sydney - September 01, 2021 at 07:18 PM

GC

“ *Greg Jackson (Ryan's cousin) purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Rev. Dr. Ryan Eugene Wagers.*



Greg Jackson (Ryan's cousin) - September 01, 2021 at 09:46 AM

GF

“ For over 7 years, my husband Tom and I were honored to have worshiped on alternate Sundays with all the Chaplains and the VA Heroes in the Chapel and at the Memorial Services on campus. I provided the music, due in large part to Ryan's invitation to do so, and Tom assisted with Communion, among other activities during each service. Without Ryan's approval, we would TRULY have missed a marvelous opportunity of service, for which we are eternally appreciative! Ryan's smile and his authentic spirit are specific characteristics that I will never forget, along with his generosity of positive thoughts. May THE LORD continue to give his loving family strength, mercy, and peace, now and in the coming days. Blessings to you all!
Tom and Gail Ford

Gail M. Ford - September 01, 2021 at 09:25 AM

KB

“ *Kristi Brinkerhoff lit a candle in memory of Rev. Dr. Ryan Eugene Wagers*



kristi brinkerhoff - August 31, 2021 at 09:33 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Dr. Ryan Eugene Wagers.*



August 30, 2021 at 08:57 PM

RS

“ *Ronald & Betty Sams lit a candle in memory of Rev. Dr. Ryan Eugene Wagers*



Ronald & Betty Sams - August 30, 2021 at 07:09 PM



Thank you Ronald and Betty. God is getting a wonderful Angel in his choir!

Michele Sams Wagers - August 31, 2021 at 01:07 PM

KL

“ *Michelle, Ross, and your families. ..words cannot adequately express how very sorry I am that Ryan has passed. I know that he is rejoicing with our Lord and Savior now, and that he is once again whole...but that doesn't make it hurt any less. My prayers are with you all that God wraps you in his loving arms and provides comfort and peace in the coming days. Much love to all...*



Kelly Lambert - August 30, 2021 at 06:51 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rev. Dr. Ryan Eugene Wagers.*



August 30, 2021 at 06:32 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray* was purchased for the family of Rev. Dr. Ryan Eugene Wagers.



August 30, 2021 at 06:19 PM