



## Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman

December 2, 1928 - February 6, 2023

Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman, 94, passed away peacefully on February 6, 2023. He was born in a farmhouse in the Antioch Community near Hartsville on December 2, 1928, to Pauline Griggs Chapman and Charles Dewitt Chapman.

He experienced the hardships of the Great Depression and knew the meaning of hard work. His first job, away from the farm, was in a blacksmith shop on College Avenue in Hartsville, followed by work at Sonoco, and working with Kerfoot's Interior Decorating.

He graduated from Antioch High School in 1945, where he was the salutatorian of his class. He attended Clemson Military College for a short period but returned home to marry his childhood sweetheart, Retha McIntosh, on July 23, 1947. They were true soulmates and sweethearts and would remain married for over 73 years until her death from COVID on December 31, 2020.

He and his brother-in-law, John McIntosh, opened Quality Hardware in 1952. The store was his passion, and he and the staff enjoyed providing excellent customer service and seeing many friends in the store on a regular basis. He would remain owner and manager for 40 years until his retirement in 1992.

Too young to serve in World War II, he joined the Army National Guard in 1947. He retired from the Army National Guard in 1970, attaining the rank of Sergeant Major. After his official retirement, he enjoyed attending the monthly "Old Timers" supper meetings for many years. He and his two older brothers had a combined service record of 81 years.

Raymond enjoyed traveling, working on old cars, genealogy, and history, especially military history. He also enjoyed local history and was instrumental in the restoration of the John Hart Cottage and establishing the Hartsville Heritage Foundation. He was a deacon at First Baptist Church which he stated was one of his greatest honors, and he also served on the Building and Grounds Committee for many years. He taught Sunday school, where he enjoyed mentoring young boys in the junior department, and also served as a teacher in the 3-year-old department.

Mr. and Mrs. Chapman were one of six couples affectionately known as "The Dirty Dozen." For decades, these friends gathered monthly for bridge games and supper. He was the last survivor of this group. Although Mr. Chapman was not terribly fond of bridge, he was quite fond of pleasing his bride, and he cherished his time with friends and especially her.

He was a very caring and kind southern gentleman who had a strong faith and believed in the timeless old-school values of integrity, hard work, love of country and God, and devotion to family and friends. He could fix or repair just about anything. He was always fair and treated everyone with dignity and respect. Most importantly, he was just fun to be with, always full of humor and shared lasting wisdom.

He was also very civic-minded, supporting many community organizations and projects. He believed in the adage that one should give back to one's community.

He is survived by his two children, Cynthia Chapman Harrell (William), and Dr. Raymond McIntosh Chapman (Pam); grandchildren: Russell Rogers Harrell (Nikki), Lora Harrell Knotts (Blake), Meredith Chapman Bonno (Eric), John McIntosh Chapman (Chandler Ann), Thomas Charles Chapman, and Andrew Benson Chapman; great-grandchildren: Cayley Harrell, Lorelai Knotts, Emmett Knotts, and Lana Hart Bonno; in addition to many special nieces whom he greatly loved. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Retha, in addition to his brothers, Howard D. Chapman and Harry J. Chapman, and sister Margie Chapman Watson.

A private family burial is planned at Magnolia Cemetery. The Directors of Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home are caring for the family.

In Lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: First Baptist Church 104 E. Home Ave., Hartsville, SC 29550, The Hartsville Heritage Foundation PO Box 212, Hartsville, SC 29551, Hartsville Museum PO Box 431, Hartsville, SC 29551, or The Darlington County Humane Society PO Box 1655, Hartsville, SC 29551.

The family members would like to express their appreciation to the nurses and staff at Morrell's Nursing Home, and to Dr. William Powell, Christy Hyatt, and the staff of Agape Hospice. The kindness and love shown by these individuals to our Papa will always be remembered.

# Cemetery Details

**Private family service**

# Tribute Wall

MI

“ *Mark Shealy III lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



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**Mark Shealy III** - February 22, 2023 at 11:42 AM

EB

“ *Eric Bradshaw lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



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**Eric Bradshaw** - February 11, 2023 at 01:35 PM

EB

*Matt and Family. I am deeply sorry for your family loss. Your daddy was a special man. He was always friendly and wanted to help when you went into hardware store. Your family will be in my prayers.*

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**Eric Bradshaw** - February 11, 2023 at 01:39 PM

BS

“ *Buzzie Snipes lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



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**Buzzie Snipes** - February 10, 2023 at 09:28 AM

MP

“ Truly the most loving couple and neighbors we've ever known - with our love and deepest sympathy to your family.  
- Misty Eve & Tommy Jacobs

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**Misty Eve Parker** - February 09, 2023 at 10:51 PM

LR

“ Lester And Lori Reynolds lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman



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**Lester and Lori Reynolds** - February 09, 2023 at 08:55 PM

AW

“ Dear Mac and Cindy, I have so many memories of your dad.. especially Quality Hardware. I was always in there looking for something. Your dad would see me coming knowing I must need something to FIX something. He was such a kind man and I loved your sweet Mother. Many prayers for your family. Hes with his sweet bride now.... Love, Anna Williams



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**anna a williams** - February 09, 2023 at 04:08 PM

VC

“ Van Chapman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman



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**Van Chapman** - February 09, 2023 at 03:58 PM

RW

“ He was always smiling & helpful. My heart & prayers go out to his family. *Becky Wadsworth Walker*

Rebecca Walker - February 09, 2023 at 01:48 PM

JC

“ James And Susan Clemons lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman



james and susan clemons - February 09, 2023 at 01:22 PM

KC

“ What a wonderful man. Always so nice to me when I would visit Hartsville with my wife Ginny. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Kendall Cumbee - February 09, 2023 at 06:56 AM

VB

“ So sorry to hear of Raymond's death. He was a fine gentleman with so many wonderful qualities. Prayers for the family as you grieve your loss but you have such wonderful memories, just focus on those. .I shall do the same.

vernon G boyd - February 08, 2023 at 11:18 PM

KJ

“ Kathi Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman



Kathi Johnson - February 08, 2023 at 07:44 PM

TO

“ *Mr Chapman was one of the sweetest people I've ever known. I'm so sorry Cindy for your loss.*

Tricia Outlaw - February 08, 2023 at 07:29 PM

CN

“ *Sorry to hear of Mr. Chapman. We shared a lot of good talks throughout the years. He was good friends with my Dad and Uncle Johnny. RIP my friend. Chris Norton*



Chris and Rhonda Norton - February 08, 2023 at 07:17 PM

LS

“ *Lavonde Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



Lavonde Smith - February 08, 2023 at 01:27 PM

TG

“ *Cindy, so sorry to hear of your father passing. May God bless you all.*



Tony Grant - February 08, 2023 at 01:22 PM

TT

“ *Our prayers are with the family.*



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**Terry and Mary Thomas** - February 08, 2023 at 12:43 PM

FH

“ *Faith Howle lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



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**Faith Howle** - February 08, 2023 at 12:28 PM

PC

“ *What a wonderful man, husband, father, and much more. I bought my first shotgun from the Quality Hardware and Raymond. He used to kid me as I could only pay him 20 dollars per week for the gun. I still have the gun and think of him every time I pick it up. Mac and Cindy, you were blessed with both your father and mother.*  
*Pressly Coker*



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**Pressly Coker** - February 08, 2023 at 12:24 PM

BH

“ Bobby & Linda Hayden lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman



Bobby & Linda Hayden - February 08, 2023 at 12:08 PM

BO

Prayers for the family.

Bobby - February 08, 2023 at 12:09 PM

PW

“ Mac and Cindy, What a wonderful father and great example to us all!!! He will be remembered for the loving family he and your sweet Mom nurtured and for his kind ways. I will be thinking about you and sending much love your way!!

Phyllis Mims Watson - February 08, 2023 at 10:25 AM

MN

“ A fine southern gentleman. Always a pleasure to talk to him.

Mike and Brenda Northcutt - February 08, 2023 at 10:18 AM

MN

“ Mike And Brenda Northcutt lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman



Mike and Brenda Northcutt - February 08, 2023 at 10:15 AM

CB

“ Tom and I are so very sorry for your loss. You have our deepest sympathy.

Cecelia D Brown - February 08, 2023 at 09:01 AM

CC

“ Carole & Paul Cannarella lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman



Carole & Paul Cannarella - February 08, 2023 at 08:53 AM

PS

“ A true southern Gentleman.



Pam P Sansbury - February 08, 2023 at 08:36 AM

MH

“ Maxine Howle lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman



Maxine Howle - February 08, 2023 at 08:08 AM

PB

“ *Peat, Repeat, and Copy have fond memories of Great Uncle Raymond, running into the back door of the hardware store for candy from Grandmother Chapman's.*

Paula Bain - February 08, 2023 at 07:56 AM

DB

“ *Dan Beasley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



Dan Beasley - February 08, 2023 at 07:28 AM

DB

*I am very sorry for your loss*

Dan Beasley - February 08, 2023 at 07:28 AM

LC

“ *Raymond was a great guy and story teller.*

Lori Leigh Chapman-Wiley - February 08, 2023 at 06:13 AM

DM

*I met Raymond in 1991. He mentored me and my family for many years. Truly a great man whose friendship I will take to my grave. God bless you Raymond. Deke Montgomery*

Deke Montgomery - February 08, 2023 at 08:13 AM

LC

“ *Lori Leigh Chapman-Wiley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



**Lori Leigh Chapman-Wiley** - February 08, 2023 at 06:13 AM

AF

“ *Ann Fulcher lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



**Ann Fulcher** - February 08, 2023 at 01:31 AM

CG

“ *Connee Gamble Grantham lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



**Connee Gamble Grantham** - February 08, 2023 at 01:14 AM

VS

“ *Vicky And Joel Segars lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



**Vicky and Joel Segars** - February 07, 2023 at 10:32 PM

AW

“ *Condolences on your loss.*



Angela White - February 07, 2023 at 09:56 PM

GG

“ *Gene And Teresa Gibson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



Gene and Teresa Gibson - February 07, 2023 at 09:40 PM

AJ

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. I always enjoyed talking with Mr. Chapman. He was a dear man. Praying for your family.*



Amy Johnson - February 07, 2023 at 09:29 PM

KN

“ *Kathy Norris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



Kathy Norris - February 07, 2023 at 08:53 PM

VP

“ Vickie Parker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman



Vickie Parker - February 07, 2023 at 08:04 PM

SC

“ Sorry for your lost he was a good neighbor and like by all! God be with the family at this difficult time. Shirley Baker and Mary Chapman



Shirley Baker and Mary Chapman - February 07, 2023 at 07:13 PM

CC

“ Sorry for your loss 🙏



Chester Crowley - February 07, 2023 at 06:52 PM

RS

“ Rebecca Skinner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman



Rebecca Skinner - February 07, 2023 at 06:23 PM

RS

*My deepest sympathy, love and prayers go to each of you. I'm thankful to have known all of you growing up, in school at THA and beyond. And to know the generations of grands and some of the great grands in this fine family. Love in Christ,  
Rebecca*

**Rebecca Skinner** - February 07, 2023 at 06:26 PM

BG

“ *Sorry for your loss.  
Prayers for all.*

**Bill Gaskins** - February 07, 2023 at 05:58 PM

MG

“ *Marie Gardner sent a virtual gift in memory of  
Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



**Marie Gardner** - February 07, 2023 at 05:36 PM

TT

“ *Terry Thompson lit a candle in memory of Mr.  
Raymond Melvin Chapman*



**Terry Thompson** - February 07, 2023 at 05:33 PM

TT

“ *Timmy Tyner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



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**Timmy Tyner** - February 07, 2023 at 05:11 PM

DB

“ *Dick Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



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**Dick Brown** - February 07, 2023 at 04:55 PM

CG

“ *Raymond and Retha were prime examples of saints among us. Their patriotism and love of family and community were a treasured example for so many. God Bless The Chapmans.*

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**Cynthia Geris** - February 07, 2023 at 04:35 PM

RD

“ *Rick And Cheri Dunlap lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



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**Rick and Cheri Dunlap** - February 07, 2023 at 04:25 PM

MS

“ *Mark And Scarlet Shealy lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



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**Mark and Scarlet Shealy** - February 07, 2023 at 04:06 PM



“ *Ed Funderburke lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



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**Ed Funderburke** - February 07, 2023 at 04:05 PM

VB

“ *Violet Bragdon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



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**Violet Bragdon** - February 07, 2023 at 03:36 PM

SA

“ *Sharon Autry lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



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**Sharon Autry** - February 07, 2023 at 03:34 PM

DF

“ I have very fond memories of Raymond Chapman, and John Mcintosh when I was young. Quality hardware had anything needed. Mac, your father was well known and respected by everyone in Hartsville. Sorry for your loss.

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**donald maurice flowers** - February 07, 2023 at 03:26 PM

CM

“ So sorry for your loss prayers for the family



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**Crystal Talbert Minnehan** - February 07, 2023 at 03:16 PM

JT

“ Judith Thompson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman



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**Judith Thompson** - February 07, 2023 at 03:15 PM

TW

“ Travis And Marilyn Walters lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman



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**Travis and Marilyn Walters** - February 07, 2023 at 02:50 PM

KL

“ Only great memories of this man, of which we all respected and appreciated. Prayers to this family.

Kathy Lawhon - February 07, 2023 at 02:50 PM

GG

“ He was always so much fun to be with! Good memories.  
Gail Gandy

Gail Gandy - February 07, 2023 at 02:47 PM

FL

“ So sorry to hear this. Praying for the family.

Fran Bailey Langley - February 07, 2023 at 02:40 PM

FW

“ Faye & Ronnie Weatherford lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman



Faye & Ronnie Weatherford - February 07, 2023 at 02:15 PM

JH

“ Jean N Howard lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman



Jean N Howard - February 07, 2023 at 02:05 PM

JH

*My thoughts and prayers are with your family.*

**Jean N Howard** - February 07, 2023 at 02:06 PM

RS

*“ Prayers for the family. Mr. Raymond was so fun to be around! He always had a joke or something funny to say. I loved sitting at the baseball field with him. He was always at the baseball field supporting his grandkids. My father loved working with him at the hardware store. Mr. Raymond will surely be missed! What a long, wonderful life he lived! God bless!*



**Rebecca Stroud** - February 07, 2023 at 01:23 PM

CB

*“ Carol Elmore Bryant lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



**carol elmore bryant** - February 07, 2023 at 01:15 PM

SM

*“ Mr. Chapman was such a great man. Sitting next to him at ballgames over the years, I treasure our conversations on everything from family, history, farming and fishing. He was a true southern gentleman and will missed by so many. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire family.*

**Stephanie Elmore McCullum** - February 07, 2023 at 01:12 PM

AM

“ *Mac, I am so sorry to hear about your dad. He was a sweet man. Keeping you and your family in my prayers. Angie Bateman*

Angela Bateman McLaughlin - February 07, 2023 at 12:55 PM

AB

“ *Raymond was a friend for many years and a perfect gentleman I always enjoyed going into Quality Hardware to visit with him. Hartsville has lost a treasure in Raymond Champman.*

Archie Biggs - February 07, 2023 at 12:17 PM

DN

“ *David And Vickie Newsome lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



David and Vickie Newsome - February 07, 2023 at 12:03 PM

DJ

“ *Dennis And Robin Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



Dennis and Robin Johnson - February 07, 2023 at 11:49 AM

JY

“ *Julian LEON Yates lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raymond Melvin Chapman*



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**julian LEON yates** - February 07, 2023 at 11:37 AM

PG

“ *Patrick and Pam Griggs*



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**Pamela Griggs** - February 07, 2023 at 11:33 AM

VC

*One of God's own who possessed outstanding qualities--a life well-lived. Blessings to his family. Virginia S. Coker*

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**Virginia S. Coker** - February 07, 2023 at 04:49 PM

JS

*Raymond was one of my favorite people, always helpful, bailed me out on several water pump issues or anything else where my feeble attempts had failed.*

*Jerry Sumner*

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**Jerry Sumner** - February 17, 2023 at 09:44 AM