



Ramon "Ray" Loren Van Sickle

December 6, 1931 - January 16, 2026

Ramon "Ray" Loren Van Sickle, 94, of Zionsville, Indiana, passed away with loving family by his side, on January 16, 2026. He was born in Indianapolis on December 6, 1931 to the late Harold Earl and Rose Alta Van Sickle. Ray graduated from Arsenal Technical High School then attended Purdue University after spending 2 years in the Air Force Reserves. He graduated with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering.

Ray met his lifelong love, Julia (Naftzger) Van Sickle, on a blind date while at Purdue. They were married on August 12, 1956 and would have celebrated their 70th anniversary this next summer. As a young man, aviation was Ray's passion. He and Julia purchased Terry Airport in 1965. They ran the fixed base general aviation operation until selling the business (renamed Indy Exec) in 2003. Ray was known for his extravagant generosity and his love of dogs. Over the years, he adopted a number of elderly rescues and gave them a loving environment in their last days. Ray even brought a homeless Black Lab and her two puppies back with him while on a youth mission trip to Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina.

Please join the family for a celebration of Ray's life on Friday, January 23, 2026. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. followed by an 11:00 a.m. service at Christ United Methodist Church, 318 N. Union Street, Westfield, IN 46074. Ray is survived by his loving wife of nearly 70 years, Julia Van Sickle; and daughter, Suzanne Montgomery (Tim Critser). His legacy lives on through his

five grandchildren, Anna Berger (Kris), Lauren Nikides-Heacox (Kyle), Rosalind Smith (Matt), Nicholas Nikides, and Garrett Montgomery (Kseniya); as well as six great-grandchildren, Knox and Josephine Berger, Maverick Heacox, Archer Smith, and Maksim and Ruslan Montgomery. He was preceded in death by two daughters, Beth Nikides and Gaynelle Van Sickle; and sister, Gaynelle (Van Sickle) Scales.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Ray's memory to Christ UMC at the above address and/or Purdue Institute for Cancer Research. Final arrangements and care are entrusted to Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 23. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ United Methodist Church
318 North Union Street
Westfield, IN 46074

Celebration of Life

JAN 23. 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ United Methodist Church
318 North Union Street
Westfield, IN 46074

Tribute Wall

KB

“ I didn't see Ray often however, he always greeted me with a big smile, soft voice with kind words.

Kelly A Bailey - January 23 at 10:22 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ramon "Ray" Loren Van Sickle.



January 20 at 03:43 PM

DM

“ Dan and Andi Montgomery planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ramon "Ray" Loren Van Sickle.

Dan and Andi Montgomery - January 20 at 03:43 PM

TH

“ I will remember always the many moments that he offered quiet comfort to others in so many ways. He had such an air of gentleness and caring in his presence at all times.

Tracy Hagen-Smith - January 19 at 04:43 PM