

Memorial Book



In Loving Memory of

Raymond "Salamander" Straley

(February 10, 1975 - January 28, 1998)



This memorial website was created to remember our dearest **Raymond "Salamander" Straley** who was born in **Ohio Springfield** on **February 10, 1975** and passed away on **January 28, 1998** in **Cincinnati, Ohio**. You will live forever in our memories and hearts.

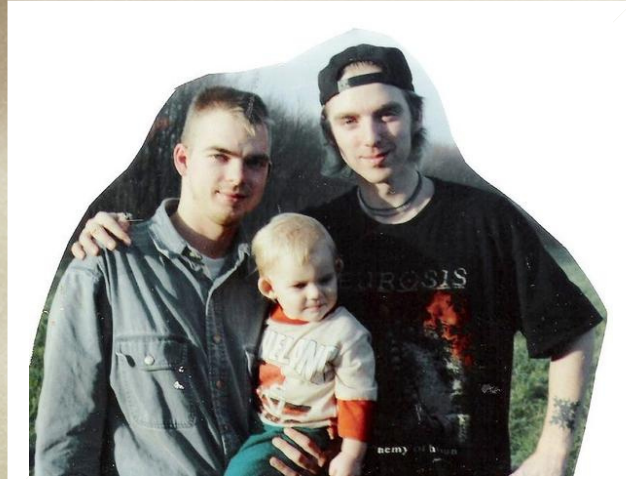
The background is a textured, mottled olive-green color. In the upper right quadrant, there are two roses. The one on the left is smaller and more tightly curled, while the one on the right is larger and more fully bloomed. The word "Gallery" is written in a white, elegant cursive font, centered horizontally and partially overlapping the roses.

Gallery

so sweet, so unforgettable...



Ray with Billy



Me & Ray with my son Christian in 1996



Katelyn Rae Gifford looking up at Daddy



Katelyn Rae Gifford



Katelyn Rae Gifford 1st grade (6yrs old) 2004



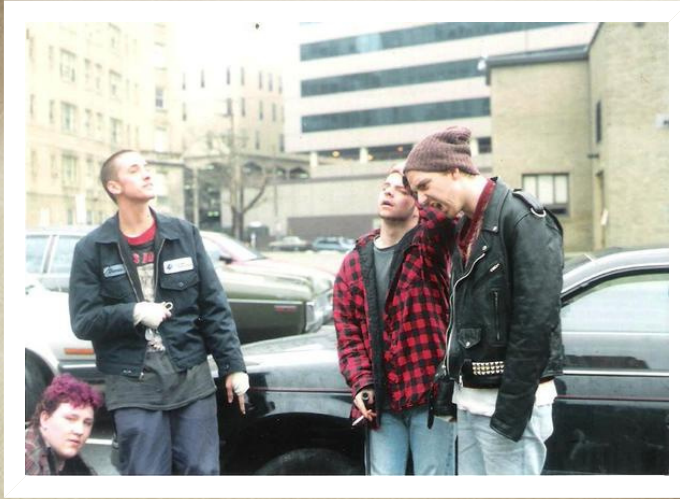
She looks so much like Ray!



Ray and Chucky



Ray with Dale, Chucky & Izzy

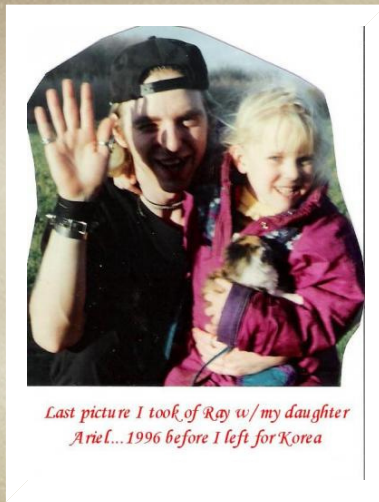


*Ray, Baker & Tarvan, John (in bottom corner)
(Pittsburg, PA)*



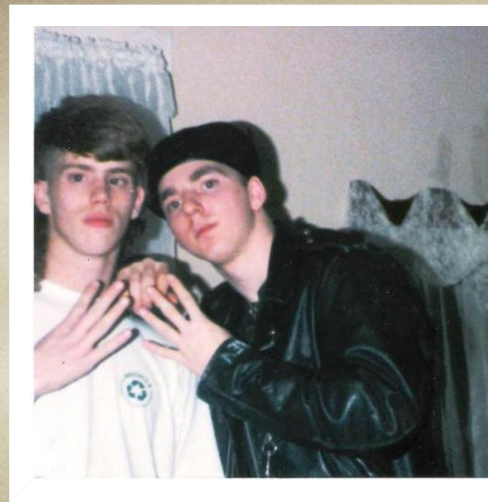
OUR TRIP TO PITTSBURG, PA.

Ray, Me & John (Pittsburg, PA)



*Last picture I took of Ray w/my daughter
Ariel...1996 before I left for Korea*

Ray with my Daughter Ariel in 1996



Ray and ???



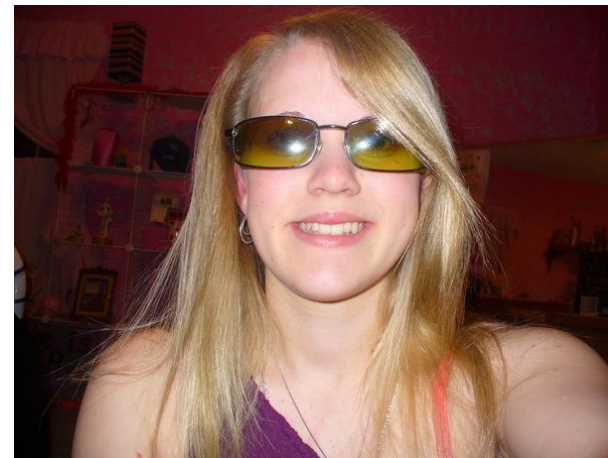
Brandy & two of her babies



Lil Sis Brandy



Travis Born 2000 (Brandy)



Ariel Born 1991 (Rusty)



Tanner Born 2001 (Brandy)



*Travis Born 2000 and Tanner Born 2001
(Brandy)*



Dale



Anthony



Billy



Kenyon Born 2005 (Rusty)



katelyn



Makayla (Merle)



Terry



Frank



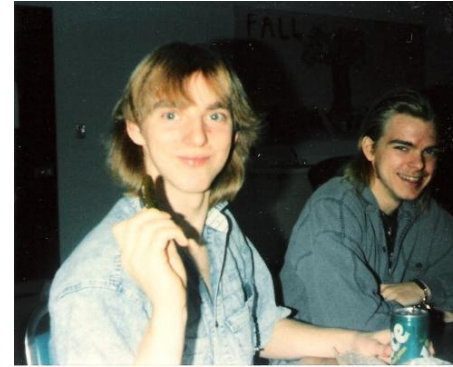
Kenny



Raven



Alyssa Born 2003 (Rusty)

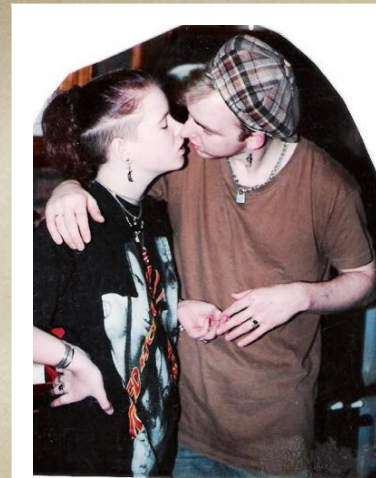


Spending Christmas in Juvenile Detention.... Those who really know us know why we were there.....

JDC



Ray in early 90's



Ray and Toby



punk



Ora



Lil Bro James



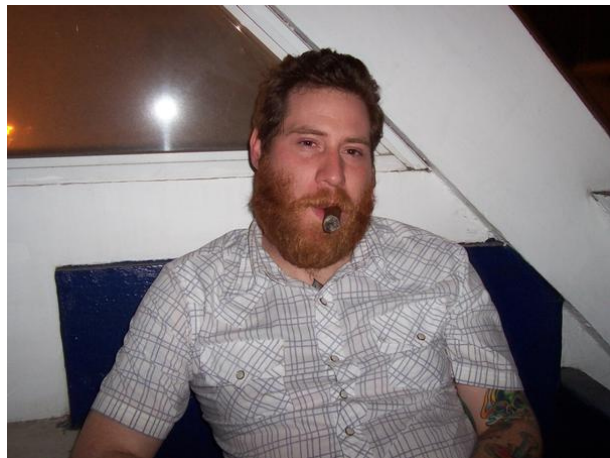
Nate



Big Bro Rusty (ME)



Eric



Scott

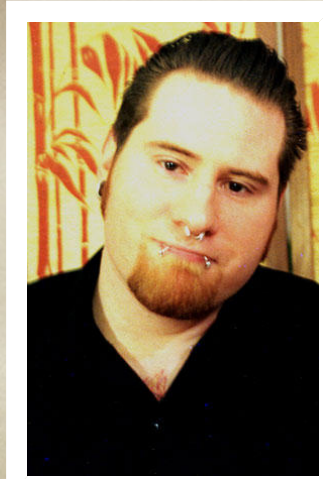


Ray in concert **PAWN**

pawn1997



drink



Chris



Trayton Born 2001 (Rusty)



Polly



Summer



1995 PAWN Miamisburg, OH



Jenny & Summer



Draven Born 2002 (Rusty)



Christian Born 1995 (Rusty)



Jerry



Jenny



Dale



Lil Bro Merle



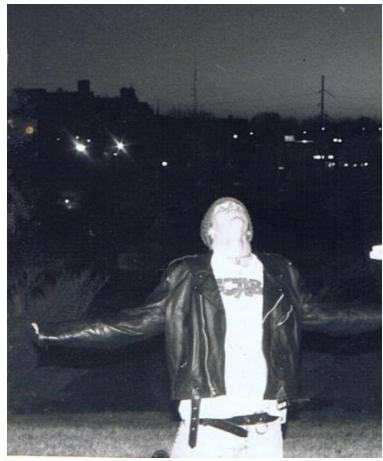
Jonathan Born 1998 (Rusty)



Terry



Squatting



The Outsiders



Doug & Jenny



Jamael Born 2008 (Rusty)



Mykael 2004 (Rusty)



family travels X36X



Vicky



Doug



Brandy



Brandy and Rusty (Me)



Phone Time



Beckie and Katelyn



The Metal Years



Karate Kid



Alysson 2005 (Brandy)



Rusty (Me)

The background is a textured, mottled olive-green color. In the upper right quadrant, there are two roses. The one on the left is smaller and more tightly closed, while the one on the right is larger and more open, showing its petals. The roses are rendered in a light, almost ethereal tone, blending with the background.

Memorial Candles

our words, your light...

04/07/2008

RUS

Hey Bro...Jus stopped by to give some more updates...can ya tell I'm taking computer classes???...LMAO !...Love ya Bro!

03/24/2008

RUS

Hey Bro...Hope you like the new background...I found some others and will change them periodically...Lo ve Ya Bro!

03/21/2008

Brandy (little sis)

*Miss you so much. Keep watching out for every one till we're all together again.
Love you Sissy*

03/20/2008

Gina

Wish I could have met Kayla's other Uncle....but the stories and pictures will live forever! Your family loves you!! XXOO~Ray!

03/15/2008

Rus

Well Bro your little girl has turned 10 years old now...Seems like you just left us yesterday! Cant believe its been this long!

03/13/2008

Eric

Whenever we all get together and start telling tails of the old days, it brings a smile to my face. Miss you lots man.

03/12/2008

RUS

Hey Bro...Missing you much everyday! Just wish you were here to share in some of lifes ups and Downs with me...Luv and miss ya!

03/12/2008

vickie

To friend never to have met

03/05/2008

Lynn

Thinking about you.

03/04/2008

Brandy (little sis)

Miss u so much tell mom hi and she does'nt need to worry. Hope your havin' the time of uour life. Love you and miss you!!

03/04/2008

RUS

Hey Bro, Just wanted to tell you I'm finally getting some pics of you to your daughter. She is such a sweetheart.

03/01/2008

Michelle

I miss putting food by my back door for you, Ray. I also miss the late night talks we had. I guess I just miss you.

01/20/2008

D

I remember

01/10/2008

cody foster's sis

*We are so sorry for you loss
our hearts and prayers are
with you and your family.*

01/10/2008

Terry Means

*I miss you every day, I
would not be the person i am
today without having you in
my Life.*

01/10/2008

Polly

*You left to soon Ray.. as they
say "Only the good die
young" Ya shit, you were not
supposed to take that
literally..*

01/10/2008

Jenny

*Hey honey I hope you are
livin large!!! Love ya and
hope to catch a glimpse of ya
in the future!!!!*

01/10/2008

Rus

*Hey Bro, just created this
new memorial for you. Hope
you're still rockin' hard up
there! Can't wait to see you
again!*

Two roses are positioned in the upper center of the page. The rose on the right is larger and more open, while the one on the left is smaller and more tightly closed. The background is a textured, mottled brownish-gold color.

Condolences

from the deepest of our hearts...

RUS

Happy B-DAY Bro!

March 1, 2008

Hey Ray, Just wanted to wish you a happy Birthday...Well belated anyway...Sorry that the site was down...I was in a financial trainwreck! But it is now paid for and will never again be down...I miss ya man! Wish we could have partied your birthday away bro....Love ya bro!, RUS

Rus

Missing you Bro!

January 10, 2008

Well Bro I found this site on a friends Myspace. Her 4 month old son passed away. I like this one better than the other so I hooked you up. LOL... Man I wish you were here! Life is still crazy, but I manage... Everyone misses you soooo much... You touched more people than you know Ray. We all wish you were here! Especially this time of year. We should be rockin' out on your birthday. On the 28th it will be 10 years since you have gone. They say time heals all but whoever said that is full of shit! It hurts just as bad today as it did the day I recieved that call. I know you're in a better place now away from all the misery, pain and hatred we endure on this earth. Yet as selfish as it might be I wish you were here with me through it all! Kaitlyn will turn 10 this year. She is such a smart and beautiful little girl. You would be so proud of her Bro... I know you are looking down upon her and watching out for her. Help me lead her in the right directions in her life so that she won't struggle like we did. Well I will write more. Most likely on your B-Day. I Love You Bro!, Rus

The background is a textured, mottled brownish-gold color. In the upper right quadrant, there are two roses. The one on the left is smaller and more tightly curled, while the one on the right is larger and more open, showing more of its petals. The roses are rendered in a slightly darker shade of the background color, giving them a subtle, embossed appearance.

Memories

all the gray you turned into colors...

Troy Cromwell



Man, where to begin...

It hurt me so bad knowing none of his true friends were unable to be closer to him during his last days of struggle...I always thought maybe he'd still be here. I always loved spending time with him...back in the day a lot of people made me laugh but he truly made me smile. He was so cool, so different...and remember, we were a pretty cool and different crowd - so that's saying something. I never really knew what he'd come over looking like...a nerd w/ coke bottle glasses and tape in the middle in a crazy suit on Monday, all black with some eye make-up and a "micro-mini" mohawk as he called it, dressed to kill no doubt. I miss him...a big part of me passed with him...as I'm sure most of you feel the same. I kinda started looking at life from a different perspective...three very good friends gone in such a very short time...something had to change. The phrases we lived by like "laugh now - cry later", "live fast die young", "to hell with tomorrow, live for today", "F**K the world"...all that stuff wasn't working for me anymore...I feel Ray's presence EVERY SINGLE TIME I write anything musically that touches on the inside...after learning of this page, I will make a promise to record a few short pieces I've done over the years that were inspired or "for" Ray and post a link for everyone to check out.

He was one of the best friends I ever had growing up...and he was one of only a few I would actually trust to watch my kids...lol...Billy, Terry, you're on that list too...

Time doesn't heal all wounds...

vickie rodgers

Ray I met you in a casket....I was one of the few that never knew you in real life, but I've lived my life listening to stories about you....some goodlots of crazy....and some bad.....I think if we had gotten the chance to know each other we would have been friends.....but as of this life I was introduced to you in a casket....and I was overwhelmed by all the people that came and loved you and was there for you in death....Vickie

Terry Means

Ray was everyones friend, He could light up a room with his laugh and make me smile when i wanted to kill someone, We had an almost secret laungauge that refrenced 80's movies and bad punk rock. We would drink coffee and he would talk about the random girl that he was obsessed with at that moment. He would show up at my house and store his records, stay up all night and eat all of one item at my house (Toast, eggs). Ray had an impact on my life that is almost immeasurable. He kept me passionate about music and art. By turning me onto Music and books i would turn others onto these ideas Via Headquarters, Ray started the entire crust Punk rock scene in daytoon in the 90's and helped shape alot of peoples political and musical beliefs. Ray touched all he came into contact with. He was Family, my brother RIP .

Polly

Ray was just a total free spirit, and a leader, though he didn't know it. As Kurt Cobain said "*The worst crime is faking it*" Which you never did.

When Ray was staying at my place, I had the whole town through there (including the police), and I didn't mind, it was fun looking through his eyes, and listening to all that glorious punk rock music that only he could get his hands on. He took me to the underground shows in Dayton too, it all seemed so exciting and raunchy and hardcore! There was more than a little magic in Ray Straley and the way he looked at the world. My only regret is that he didn't live long enough to see that magic and influence mature into something great, that he could pass on to others.

Leaving you with this other great quote from aanother great punk, Cobain:

"*Vadalism: beautiful as a rock in a cop's face.*" Cheers to you Ray, you did it your way, all the way, all

the time.

Billy Franklin

ray was a great friend.he meant the world to me.there was never a person in my life like him before nor since. he ran up my phone bill,ate bananas out of bowls (c'mon ray,out of a bowl) ,put pizza in the oven with the cardboard still under it and had the cops at my crib on more than one occasion,but regardless, that was ray,and those who loved him,put up with it.he is missed dearly by tons of people.....

Jenny Hunter

It sucked at the time but was funny for us later when one of the damn hooks on your pants got stuck in my damn leg!!! didn't bleed much though so that was cool not to big a mess, huh!!!!

The background is a textured, mottled brownish-gold color. In the upper right quadrant, there are two roses. The one on the left is a smaller, tighter bud, while the one on the right is larger and more fully bloomed, showing the characteristic spiral pattern of rose petals. The roses are rendered in a slightly darker shade than the background, giving them a subtle, embossed appearance.

Life Story

every hour, every thought, every smile...

February 10, 1975

Born in **Ohio Springfield** on **February 10, 1975**.

January 28, 1998

Passed away on **January 28, 1998** in Cincinatti, Ohio.

January 11, 2008

For those of you that knew/know Ray and myself well. You all know the kind of life we had/lived. Basically we were born to a young teenage mother who not only was struggling financially to take care of Ray and I, but with a drug problem as well. At the age of seventeen and already trying to raise two children on her own, our mother was arrested for Theft and Tampering with Coin Machines. She was sentenced to prison and because at the time it was unknown if my father (Sperm Doner) was also Rays father we were seperated. Ray was taken to family of his possible father in Columbus, OH and I was placed with my grandparents (fathers parents) in Springfield, OH. We would not see each other again until I was fourteen years old. Unfortunatly Ray was returned back to our mother, and I say unfortunatly because she was still struggling with drugs and dating VERY abusive men. Abusive towards Ray and her! By the time I came back into their lives She was finally over all that and had married a great man (Kevin Lewis) who unfortunatly then was killed by a drunk driver. She remarried and all was still well. We saw eachother frequently and when I was sixteen years old I moved in with them. Ray and I were Metal Heads/Punk Rockers/Just all out defiant and walked our own path. We went through many ADVENTURES which are too numerous to try and place on here. Again those who knew us most likely know all or most of them or have at least heard about them. Later our mom found our Brother, Daniel Straley, and sister, Brandy Chapman, who were taken by their father years before. They ame to live with us and it was a great time in all our lives. Unfortunatly like every good thing in our moms life it came to an abrupt end. Our mom found out that she had cancer and for a short period it went into remission then returned with a vengence. Brandy and Danny were sent back to live with their father and endured years of abuse before the state finally took action. In 1994 our mother passed away of cancer at the age of 35. We were both very depressed and felt so alone at that point. We had so much support though from eachother and from our

many friends whom over the years became our family. Basically Rays life started going very well. He was working, had a great band (PAWN) and was very happy. I had joined the Army and was traveling, but always knew that Ray was well taken care of by our extended family (Friends). We tried to do our best to keep in contact with each other and our brother and sister, but it was sometimes hit and miss. Then for whatever reason Ray decided to leave PAWN and moved to Cincinnati, OH. This is where it all started to fall apart. At first he was OK. Working two jobs, writing and starting a new band. Then he fell into the meth scene. He lost his jobs, lost his girl and found out that his ex-girl was pregnant. He steadily fell into a depression which we all (Friends & myself) were always able to get him out of. But this time it seemed to be very hard to do. I returned from Korea and visited Ray in Cincinnati and he seemed alright at that time. That was in December 1997. We had a great weekend and I saw his new pad, his new band and got the tour of Cincinnati. I returned to my Duty Station in Ft. Campbell, KY to prepare for another trip for training. It was just two days before I shipped out, Jan. 28, 1998. I came home late that day from working on the railhead getting trucks ready. When I walked through the door my wife (now ex) looked at me funny. I asked what was wrong and she told me that one of Rays friends found him hanging in the tree in the back yard. He had pushed his motorcycle up to the tree took an orange extension cord from the bar that was attached to his apartment, attached one end to the tree and the other around his neck and kicked his bike over. It was estimated that he did this around 3am. Ray was found 3pm the next day. His beautiful daughter Kaitlyn Rae was born that following March. Due to Rays death she was eligible for Social Security. This is when my father (sperm donor) came in. I was gone again with the military so they did the DNA test through him. It was a match and Kaitlyn was Rays (like you couldn't tell by the pics) and Ray was my fathers (sperm donor) son. So there you have it! Rays' life in a nut shell. It wasn't the greatest by far, but we always were surrounded by great people. For that I think you all...you know who you are. Ray loved you all and so do I...We did all we could for Ray and even though we ask ourselves everyday if it was enough...just remember he was very happy and we all have so many great memories to hold onto and cherish forever till we see his crazy ass again....Thank you all, Rusty

Our Deepest Sympathy

www.last-memories.com