



Dr. Clayton Gray Jr

April 16, 1935 - July 3, 2024

Dr. Clayton Gray, Jr., Rocky Mount native and beloved son of the late Willam Clayton Gray and the late Ada Dupree Gray departed this life on July 3, 2024 in Lake Forest, Illinois. During his lifetime, he received numerous honors, which included National Honor Society Membership, Phi Beta Kappa Membership, Delta Phi Alpha German Honorary Society Membership, Magna Cum Laude Graduate, and a recipient of the National Endowment For The Humanities Grant. During his professional tour of duty he studied and traveled in Germany and the Netherlands. In addition, the Federal Republic Of Germany awarded Dr. Gray a Dankstipendium to study at the Free University Of Berlin. He retired from Lake Forest College where he taught Italian, French, Dutch, German, and Russian. He was fluent in over 19 languages. It is important to note that he was an accomplished classical pianist. He leaves to cherish his memory his older sister, Reverend Dr. Ada Gray Pulley, Rocky Mount,

North Carolina, nieces, nephews, and a host of relatives and friends.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 19. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Morgan Funerals & Cremations, Inc.
320 South Glendale Drive
Rocky Mount, NC 27801
(252) 446-2600

This is a viewing for the public.

Viewing

JUL 20. 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM (ET)

Metropolitan Baptist Church
1213 Leggett Rd.
Rocky Mount, NC 27801

This viewing will be at the church before the Funeral Services Begin.

Funeral Service

JUL 20. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Metropolitan Baptist Church
1213 Leggett Rd.
Rocky Mount, NC 27801

Tribute Wall

DN

“ I got to know Clayton when he was teaching at the University of Illinois in Urbana and I was about 19 and studying English with a German and philosophy minor. He impressed me enormously, and I was disappointed when he left for Lake Forest. I visited him there many years later, once the internet made it possible to track down acquaintances from a long time back. He made me dinner, and we chatted less about old times than about the state of the world. By that time I had lived in Germany and the German-speaking part of Switzerland. As a journalist, I had met a lot of government ministers, central banker governors, CEOs of major corporations and academics. I had come to know some profound thinkers, too. But few commanded the awe in which I held Clayton. I'm late coming to this page, but I want to pay respects even now.

Donald Nordberg - September 23, 2025 at 06:11 AM

AD

“ Our hearts are filled with so many valuable memories of Clayton as a wonderful person. We first came into touch with him in 1971, when we as exchange teachers from Germany enjoyed the privilege of being invited into his family's home in Rocky Mount to spend an unforgettable Christmas in the midst of his exceptionally wonderful family. A treasure in our hearts forever! Clayton was exceptional in so many ways. He loved to play with words, and he used to sign his letters to us "Lehmtonne Grau", which is his name translated into German. Requiescat in pace.

Adelheid and Gerhard Disselkamp - August 30, 2025 at 09:53 AM

AA

“ Clayton was our family friend when my dad was in grad school with him in Boulder and Berkeley. He was my first piano teacher and one of my favorite people.

Allan van Asselt - July 25, 2025 at 01:58 PM

AS

“ Professor Gray was an inspirational, intellectual and witty man. I remember being in night school one stormy winter night when the electricity failed. "Oh," came Professor Gray's voice from the dark, "delighted!"

Adam Smith - April 09, 2025 at 07:46 AM

JA

“ A wonderful German Professor I had in college. I admired his many, many language abilities and accomplishments. Rest in peace Dr. Gray. You were a great man!!

Janis - July 22, 2024 at 04:04 PM