



## Donald "Ray" Echols

June 18, 1953 - March 5, 2016

Donald Ray Echols, 62, of Ladson, husband of Vadene (Helms) Echols, passed away on Saturday, March 5, 2016 at Medical University of Charleston. Friends and family may call at James A. Dyal Funeral Home on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 from 6 o'clock until 8 o'clock PM. A graveside service will be held on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 11 o'clock AM at Beaufort National Cemetery.

Ray was born on June 18, 1953 in Moultrie, GA, son of the late Charles William Echols, Jr. and Sallie Mae (Meads) Echols. He was a retired veteran of the United States Navy where he served for 26 years. He was a life time member of VFW. Ray was a professional Bee Keeper. He was a champion dart player. He enjoyed wood working. Ray was a wonderful care giver and a wonderful friend to those who knew him.

Surviving in addition to his wife Vadene are: two daughters: Emily Tomkins and her husband John of Sioux Falls, SD and Sara Moodie and her husband Peter of Channahon, IL; six grandchildren: Caroline, Rebecca, Eli, Owen, Elliott and Peter; two brothers: Charles "Chuck" Echols and his wife Glenda and Bruce Echols and his wife Terri both of Georgia; several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Wounded Warrior Project, Post Office Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675.

A memorial message may be written to the family by visiting our website at [www.jamesadyal.com](http://www.jamesadyal.com).

ARRANGEMENTS BY JAMES A. DYAL FUNERAL HOME, 303 SOUTH  
MAIN STREET, SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483 (843)873-4040.

# Tribute Wall



“ Donald "Ray" Echols

September 29, 2022 at 10:11 AM



“ R.I.P Sir!

CS - March 11, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Well ill try this again. Im really heart broken to hear the loss of a beautiful man who meant so much to so many people. Donny ray you are loved by so many. Its been a great pleasure to have been a part of ur life. I will never forget you and all ive learned from you in the dart world as well as the people world I love you my friend and never will i forget you.R.I.P. my friend. God bless his family.

Bonnie clanton - March 10, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Vadene, Melissa and I are so sorry for your loss. May the love of the lord and all your dear friends who care so much for you, help get you through this trying time. You are in our prayers.

Dean Barnes - March 10, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ All of you have been in my thoughts and prayers. Words cannot bring you peace but prayers will. Love to you all

Carol Meehan Jackson - March 10, 2016 at 12:00 AM

WI

“ *The afternoon BS sessions at the 'Post' will be a lot less lively without the Master Chief Snipe. I always looked foreword to shootin the breeze with you and hearing your points, and counterpoints. Fair Winds and Following Seas as You Cross the Bar Shipmate!!*

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**William** - March 10, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ *Our thoughts and prayers go out to a wonderful friend, co-worker and classmate Vadene. My husband and i will continue to keep you and your family in our prayers. May God continue to comfort all of you in your time of sorrow.*

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**Aundrea Ravenell** - March 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with family and friends of Donnie Ray. He was always a fun guy who was an amazing competitor on the dart board. I have and will always cherish the memories of playing with and even more so against him over the last 20+ years. Rest in peace my friend...*

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**Edward Clanton** - March 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ *Well Sailor I'm sure we'll see each other again in the "Big CPO Mess." To your family I hope that you can always remember him as he will be with you through those thoughts and prayers. May God Bless you.*

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**Pat Davis** - March 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ I am so sorry to hear the news Donald Ray Echols will be missed and always in my heart and soul RIP Ray

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**Kevin McCarthy** - March 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ As Hans Christian Andersen said: A human life is a story told by God.. Mr Ray's story was a great one. He touched so many lives. My heart aches at the loss of such a wonderful man. He was a cherished husband, father, friend, and second dad to all of us who were lucky enough to grow up on our street. I will miss seeing his face, but his story will continue through the lives of those he touched. Much love and prayers for peace to Ms. Vadene, Emily and Sara. I am here for you always.

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**Tammy Bragg** - March 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Ray was a shipmate on the USS Sellers, our hearts and prayers for your comfort, God now has a fine Master Chief in his fleet.

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**Joe Peal** - March 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ Some of my fondest memories as a child was spent at the Echols home. We lived on the same street and grew up right along side his daughters. I spent many a days at their house. I remember Ray was always tinkering with something and I enjoyed tinkering right along with him. He was like a second father to me. He will be greatly missed and always adored in my eyes.

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**Cindy Bragg Register** - March 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ Our hearts and prayers go out to a good friend and co-worker Vadene. My wife and I will keep you and your family in our prayers. May the Good Lord continue to comfort all of you in your time of sorrow.

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**Lawton** - March 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Vadene and Family ,I was so sorry for your tragic loss .Please know that many caring thoughts are with you during your time of sorrow .Draw strength form his love .

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**dianne sutherland** - March 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ My prayers and thoughts are with you all. Ray and Charles were both mine and Sam's brothers growing up in Boston, GA. I am truly saddened and so sorry. Ray you made it to the "Great Storm" and loving it I know. With Love, Jimmy BROWN

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**Jimmy Brown** - March 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ We met Donny Ray when we were playing darts on the league. He was a very nice man that was always willing to teach & share his dart strategies even if you were on the opposing teams. I have nothing but fond memories of him. He always made us laugh. He was one of the good guys. We will be keeping his wife & family in our prayers. God bless.

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**Steve** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *I graduated from high school with Ray. So sorry for our loss. Your family will be in my prayers. Linda Collins Stephenson*

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March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Donnie Ray, you will always be alive in my heart. You were a man of strong values, respect, integrity and morals. Thank you for your friendship. You will live long in my heart!*

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**Heather Dutcher** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sara, my heart goes out to you and your family during this difficult time. I always loved hearing stories about your Dad. Hold those memories and your family close. Love you*

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**Kerry Joutras** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Donny Ray was a great friend & mentor to all of us darters. He will be sadly missed. Our thoughts & prayers go out to his family.*

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**Stephanie Cooper** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. He will definitely be missed by his dart family.*

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**Lianne Carper** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Donny Ray was a great neighbor and a good friend to many. My heartfelt prayers and sympathy are with his family and the entire SC darting community. Fair winds and following seas shipmate.

Randy Hausenfluck - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Master Chief, not much for words when I just talked to u the other day I'll miss our little chats who is going to call me boats did u do a turn over on that, No but it's OK masterchief you will be missed my friend fare winds and following sea's God bless u and your family to we meet again.

Mikey Carlson Sr - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ So sorry to hear of Donnie Ray pass . it breaks my heart .

Kevin Moon - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Thoughts and prayers to friends and family. I met Donnie years ago at a dart event, and drank a few beers with him over the years. RIP friend, see you in a bit.

March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RO

“ So sorry to hear of this news. Your family are in our prayers.

Ron - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ Donny Ray (as his dart family knew him) was a very good friend of mine and the rest of the darting community. He will be greatly missed. My prayers are with Vadene and the family.

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**Dennis Thompson** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ Vadene, words can't express how sorry I am. My heart hurts for yours and Ray's family. Know that you all are loved by so many and support is here for you. I love you girl to the moon and back. Prayers for all of you.

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**Peggy Goddard** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to Donnie Ray's family. He will be missed in the dart community

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**Stacey Rook** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

EA

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. He was such an amazing man, who is going to be greatly missed. He's truly one in a million. Love him dearly. Love you Mrs. Echols.

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**Eandra Alonso** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together as you celebrate a life well lived - You and your Family have my Deepest Sympathy.

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**Patrick McCarthy** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *May God surround you and comfort you through this trying time. I am sorry that I never got to meet his wife but I know he loved her with all his heart and soul. Donnie Ray I will miss you. Bonnie Walton. Ladson Post 3433*

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March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Fair winds and following seas Master Chief. I am proud to be able to call you shipmate.*

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**Craig Waugh** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Vadene, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. My prayers and thoughts go out to you and your family.*

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**Terri Bivens** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers go out his family and friends. D-ray i will miss you and so will everyone at vfw post 3433. Breaks my heart to hear this.*

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**Tamara Aydlette** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Vadene, Our hearts go out to you and all the family. Yall were always a big part of our family and still are. Ray will be missed so much. We will keep everyone in our prayers. Love Always,*

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**Pam and Tommy Douglas** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ Shocked just learning of the news. Got my honey and wax from Ray and his wife with their hives right behind our home. So saddened. Prayers to his wife & family. Condolences, the Ashley Family.

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**Lori Ashley** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ We have lost a great friend. He was a mentor, teacher, history buff and all around kind soul. He always had a story to tell and could make us laugh. This tragedy has let both of us with a large void in our hearts.

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**Marietta** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Sara, I am so sorry to hear about your dad! Thoughts and prayers are with you and your family!

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**peggy smith** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Cherish the precious memories of your lives together.

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**Jennifer Wolfe** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Prayers for your family, Vadene. Not sure if I or Sheryl ever met you but we counted Donny as a dear friend for the last several years in our dart community. Russell and Sheryl Hedrick

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**Russell Hedrick** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ I saw this accident happen and was broken hearted when I saw what seems to be a wonderful man being transported to the ambulance. I instantly felt such sorrow when I saw him. I can't begin to fathom how his family and friends must feel. I prayed he would open his eyes to see the light of day, but now I pray he is resting in eternal peace and that his family will find understanding and solitude in such an unfair situation. You will all be in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Laura A** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ I only knew him threw darts but he was a great man. May he rest in piece.

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**carlissa pugh** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ I'm so sorry to hear of such sad news. You are in our prayers.

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**Georgia Crosby** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

GL

“ Vadene and family I am so sorry for your loss , Words can not express the shock you all feel. Try to cling to the Father in Heaven who will give you comfort and strength in the days forward , Vadene you are such a beautiful person inside and out so I know Don was too , He surely has his place in Heaven and you will see him again someday ,Prayers to all

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**Georgia Leggett** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Words cannot express how deeply the sorrow we feel, for you and your family. Ray was such a sweet down to earth kind of guy. He could make you laugh and tell the greatest stories. May the Lord hold you all, comfort you, and give you peace. He will truly be missed. Much Love Cindy and Bill Collins

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March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Fair Winds and Following Seas Master Chief. Thank you for standing the watch, your service was greatly appreciated. You will be truly missed by your dart family. Rest in Peace Sir.

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**Billy Sandefur** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ My heart, thoughts, and my prayers go out to all of you... it's difficult to lose the people we love.... Praying for God to comfort you now...

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**Miriam Bentley Stewart** - March 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ My prayers for his immediate family for this untimely death. Ray was a great fun guy to be around. And a dear cousin.

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**Edward Flowers** - March 07, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ He will be missed

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**Kevin McCarthy** - March 07, 2016 at 12:00 AM

NS

“ Sorry to hear about your loss. Keeping you and your family in my prayers.

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**Nancy Smith** - March 07, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Vadene - So sorry to hear about this! Please know that Alisha and I will have you and the family in our prayers through these difficult times. Love and miss you!

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**DJ Hancock** - March 07, 2016 at 12:00 AM