

Ray Schmautz

Serving with Cadence International

Cadence Ambassador

Cadence.org/Schmautz

“Know that the Lord God Almighty is present with each of us and will help carry all the burdens and heartaches that we might have.”

—Jan Schmautz

Greetings from the Schmautz's

As I write this to all of you, I struggle to find the words to express the loss and change our family has experienced this year with both my mom and dad, Jan and Ray.

As some of you might already know, my mom went to be with Jesus on March 18 at approximately 6:00 p.m. here in Florida. She had struggled for a few years with multiple myeloma (since 2018), and in 2022, she was also diagnosed with clear cell carcinoma in her uterus. She had a successful surgery to remove what the doctors could find and completed three rounds of chemo, but unbeknownst to us, the cancer spread to her brain.

She suffered a seizure which required CPR on Monday, March 13, at home, and she never regained her motor skills or ability to communicate. We decided to relieve her pain and let her leave us peacefully in the care of hospice (at the hospital). My dad, who was diagnosed with dementia (specifically Alzheimer's) in 2018, was able to be at the hospital to hold my mom's hand each day, which was a blessing.

Unfortunately, with my mom's passing, my dad's Alzheimer's has started to progress at a quicker pace. This required us to find a memory care home for him (Harbor Chase) within 15 minutes of us so we can see him regularly and be in a safe environment. Harbor Chase allows us to check him out of the facility so that he can still be part of occasional family dinners and gatherings. The facility offers Bible studies and other activities that my dad is starting to enjoy a bit more. He misses my mom every day and has good and bad days, but the good days seem to be more common now. Alzheimer's has been a blessing in disguise for him as he processes the loss of my mom.

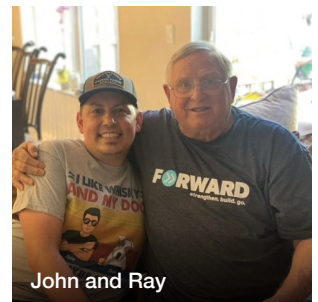
It will be a journey as we continue to ensure that my dad is cared for in a facility that allows him some dignity while his Alzheimer's progresses. Unfortunately, as many of you know, good care facilities are unexplainably expensive. We are working to get some help through Medicaid, but he will not be eligible until early next year.

John and his wife Jacque moved from Cincinnati to Florida in May to be closer to Dad and all of us here. We had planned this so they could also be closer to Mom, but God had other plans. I truly believe that she is looking down on us and smiling with her mega-watt smile, knowing that we are all finally living in the same state together. This was one of her biggest wishes.

Thank you for continuing this journey with us as part of our support and prayer team. We cannot express how grateful we are to all of you. I will continue working with Cadence to keep everyone who has so graciously supported and encouraged our family for so many years up to speed on how we are all doing as God continues to lead us down a new path.

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”
(1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 ESV)

With love,
**Anna, Rebekah, and John
Schmautz, for Dad**



John and Ray



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