

Ray Anderson Tribute by Mike Rusinak

Ray Anderson, who played a pivotal role in the development of the Coastal Carolina Classic Handball Tournament, and its transformation into the famously attended Shrimp-A-Roo Tournament, passed away on January 1, 2018 at the age of 76 after a brief illness.

Ray was born in Birmingham, AL. He eventually settled in Wilmington, NC where he raised his family and started a most successful real estate business.

Ray was a great competitor on the handball court and he had many a fierce battle with his longtime friend, Bill Nye, each fighting for space and position on the right side of the court. Within a few points into the game Ray or Bill could be heard demanding space...."I can't see the ball" would be cried out for many a rally. Ray was always ready for a competitive game with his close group of "confederates". Win or lose, the matches were celebrated at Hierononymus with a beer or a soda. Ray played in and supported many tournaments playing both singles and doubles nationwide.

Ray was a great supporter of all aspects of Wilmington handball. Ray was exceedingly generous to the sport, community and especially the Wilmington YMCA.

The Shrimp-A-Roo took hold in the late 1970's and became one of the most successful and tastiest tournaments on the East Coast. Players and their families greatly enjoyed the 300 pounds of Southern boiled shrimp with all the fixings. Each year Ray would hoist the giant tent pole and provide food and fun for well over 00 people in his backyard.

Ray is survived by his longtime partner Barbara Hall whom he loved to travel the globe with. Ray is also survived by his son, Brett, and a daughter, Diana Dee.

Ray will be greatly missed by all in the Wilmington, NC handball community.

Donations in his memory can be made to the USHA. Approximately \$2000 has been donated on Ray's behalf.