



## Raymond Aspinwall

June 29, 2020

Raymond P. (Ray) Aspinwall a lifelong resident of Englewood, passed on June 29, 2020. Ray was born February 8, 1948 to Kenneth P. and Bridget K. Aspinwall. He matriculated through the Englewood Public School System, graduating from Dwight Morrow High School in 1966. A member of St. Cecilia Church, he received the sacraments and became a deacon. Ray joined the Boy Scouts of America, and accomplished the highest achievement, the Eagle Scout. Following his passion for music, he attended Butler University, Jordon College of Music in Indianapolis, Indiana, graduating in 1971 with a Bachelor of Music degree. In later years he attended Fairleigh Dickenson University for graduate work. Ray earned a Certificate of Public Management in 1993.

Ray was a teacher of Music in the Englewood Public School District. He took an early retirement from teaching to follow one of his passions, politics. He was very active in the Bergen County Republican Organization, and Republicans for Good Government, and was District Chair for the Republican organization representing the 37th District. He was a current board member of the Englewood Housing Authority.

Ray's second passion was music, where he was a member of American Federation of Musicians Local 16-248: Northern, Central, and Southern New Jersey Musician's Guild. He enjoyed playing his trumpet and performing with different bands, such as Rick Marcy's La Banda Del Fiesta Italian, the

Palisades Park Fire Department Band, the West Morris Community Concert Band, and the American Weldery Band, among others. Earlier this year Ray took over as conductor of a concert band in the Englewood area and he was a longtime member of the Bergen Philharmonic, and currently a member of the Board of Directors.

Ray was a long-standing and active Trustee of the Boat Jumpers Organization. This Italian organization is a social club dedicated to good fellowship and fun. The BJO would host a roast/dinner every year to honor outstanding community members. Ray also hosted for 26 years (10 with his father, and 16 years on his own) the annual Jim Sheehan Memorial St. Patrick's Day Breakfast. He was a member of the Lincoln Club, and was part of a nationwide network of automobile fans that search for Lincoln parts and cars in working order. Ray was very proud of his main vehicle, a 1986 Lincoln Town Car. He drove it to every meeting and family gathering.

Ray was predeceased by his brother Kenneth P. Aspinwall, Jr., his mother Bridget "Bridie" K. Aspinwall, and his father Kenneth P. Aspinwall. He is survived by cousins in Ohio, Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Missouri, and Arkansas. Ray was a true friend, he always enjoyed a good gathering and a nice glass of wine. He will be deeply missed.

Arrangements are being handled by Barrett Funeral Home, 148 Dean Drive, Tenafly, NJ 07670. Visitation is Wednesday, July 8, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Funeral service is at 12:00 PM, with interment in George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus following.

Services will not available via webcast.



# Cemetery Details

## George Washington Memorial Park

234 Paramus Road  
Paramus, NJ 07652

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 8. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home  
148 Dean Dr  
Tenafly, NJ 07670  
(201) 568-8043  
<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

## Service

JUL 8. 12:00 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home  
148 Dean Dr  
Tenafly, NJ 07670  
(201) 568-8043  
<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

KH

“ *Very sorry to hear about Ray's passing! I played with him in the Tony Neglia Band, and he was always great to play with. He will be greatly missed!*

*With my condolences,*

*Katy Holsten*

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**Katy Holsten** - July 23, 2020 at 03:59 PM

ME

“ Dear Doug and Family and Friends of Ray,  
I last spoke with Ray on June 22. He said he was feeling better and that was very encouraging. I was shocked to hear that he had taken a sudden turn for the worse shortly after that!

My husband, James Eager, was a friend of Ray's from Butler University's Jordan College of Music. He might have also known him from the Palisades Park Firemen's Band – maybe even before university – as Jim grew up in Dumont, NJ and played with the PPFB for many years

For the past several years four friends from Butler would get together for an annual reunion. I got to know Ray from these lively events. He always brought a bag of gorgeous navel oranges or grapefruits and two HUGE (must have weighed in at 4lbs. each) crumb cakes from the famous B & W Bakery in Hackensack. I always enjoyed Ray's company. He was always up for a sightseeing trip or visit to a museum, gallery or concert and kept up lively conversations.

Yesterday I went through a pile of cards from the past year and there were about five from Ray -- birthdays, Christmas, Valentine's Day. He never missed an important occasion and I always looked forward to his funny and many times irreverent cards!

I knew that Ray had wide ranging interests and talents and many friends but it was only after reading the tributes and the obituary that I realized how very involved he was in the political and musical organizations of the Bergen County area. He will be sorely missed!

So sorry that travel to NJ is not possible at this time.  
Be safe and well!

Condolences to all,  
Marel Eager (widow of James Eager, Ray's friend from Butler University)

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Marel Eager - July 08, 2020 at 10:47 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond Aspinwall.*



July 06, 2020 at 09:08 PM



“ *Donna & Bob Leive..sorry Bob not able to come = ( purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of Raymond Aspinwall.*



**Donna & Bob Leive..sorry Bob not able to come = ( - July 06, 2020 at 08:35 PM**



“ *The Stirrup Family - Heidi, Sarah and John purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Raymond Aspinwall.*



**The Stirrup Family - Heidi, Sarah and John - July 06, 2020 at 12:42 PM**



“ *Giving my condolences Ray was a fine trumpeter who played with the Palisade Park Fire Department Band. He liked to share jokes that made me laugh. Ron Schwartz, trumpet player*

**Ron Schwartz - July 05, 2020 at 10:01 PM**

“ Tribute from Martin Hodapp:

*Raymond Peter Aspinwall was born Feb 8, 1948 to Kenneth and Bridgett Kathleen Aspinwall in Englewood, NJ. Following graduation from Dwight Morrow High school in 1966, he enrolled in Butler University, Jordan College of Music in Indianapolis, IN, (which is where I met him). At Butler he studied trumpet with Delbert Dale, and during the summer when he returned to Englewood, he studied with John Ware, of the New York Philharmonic. Both these teachers were very influential to his musical development. After Ray graduated from Butler with a Bachelor of Music Degree in 1971, he returned to NJ and remained there.*

*After Ray's mother died his father no longer wanted to manage a house, so he deeded the family home to Ray and moved into assisted living. This is the house on Prospect St where lived for the rest of his life.*

*Ray taught music in the Englewood Public School District for a few years, but politics was always in his blood, so he took an early retirement from teaching and took a position with the Bergen County Republican Organization. In 1993, he completed a 12-credit graduate program of study in cooperation with the Bergen County Police and Fire Academy, Mahwah, NJ earning a Certificate of Public Management from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Ray would remain actively involved with NJ politics for the rest of his life, often attending meetings in Washington DC, and around the country. Ray was a long-standing and active Trustee of the Boat Jumpers Organization, an Italian American social club formed by "Italians who got tired of hearing other people boast about their ancestors coming over on the Mayflower." They said they "always wondered how that little boat could hold so many people." The BJO was dedicated to good fellowship and fun and would host a roast/dinner every year to honor outstanding community members. Ray was also District Chair for the Republican Organization representing the 37th District. For 26 years Ray hosted the Jim Sheehan Memorial St. Patrick's Day Breakfasts (10 years with his father and 16 years on his own). He was quite sad when he had to end them in 2020. Ray always kept playing trumpet and performed with many groups*

*in the northern NJ area. He was a member of AFM Local 16-248: Northern, Central, and Southern New Jersey Musicians' Guild. Among the bands he played with are the Fireman's Band, and Rick Marcri's La Banda delle Feste Italiane, Earlier this year he took over as conductor of a concert band in the Englewood area, and he was a long time member of the Bergen Philharmonic.*

*Ray was a member of the Lincoln club, and always owned and drove 1986 Lincolns. He proudly drove his '86 Lincoln to every meeting and event he attended. He was part of a nation-wide network that searched for Lincoln parts and cars in working condition.*

*In the early 1980's someone erroneously listed me as "deceased" in the Butler Alumni magazine, and several of my Butler friends thought I had passed away. When Ray drove his Lincoln to Indianapolis to see his old trumpet teacher, Delbert Dale, he was flabbergasted when Delbert said "I saw Marty last night at rehearsal" - my wife said she thought Ray was going to cry when he actually saw me the next day. We were able to renew our friendship and kept in touch ever since.*

*In 2008 4 of us "Boys" who met at Butler in the late 1960's began holding unofficial 50+ year reunions at in Boston, MA at the home of Charley Roberts. Jim Eager and his wife Marel lived in Halifax, NS, my wife Janet and I (Marty Hodapp) came in from Indianapolis, and Ray would drive his Lincoln up from Englewood. We met every summer for a few days of reminiscing and imbibing. These get-togethers were always very enjoyable. Unfortunately, my wife Janet died in 2015, Jim in 2017, Charley in 2019, and now Ray has passed. Jim's widow Marel and I are now the last ones standing. Ray was preceded in death by his parents, and his brother Kenneth Aspinwall*

BW

“*Bruce And Eileen Wrede lit a candle in memory of Raymond Aspinwall*



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**Bruce and Eileen Wrede** - July 04, 2020 at 08:18 AM

BP

“*Ray was such an amazingly talented musician. I'm glad we've kept in touch through the years and I'll miss his jokes and sense of humor.*

*Betty Peters*

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**Betty Peters** - July 03, 2020 at 07:06 PM

LW

“*Great loss to all who knew Ray...dedicated, dependable and kind.always stepped up to the plate without hesitation when anyone in any way needed help.great trumpet player ..will miss the jokes he'd send in email and especially his robust laugh. RIP*

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**Linda n Rich Webb** - July 03, 2020 at 02:37 PM