



## Mr Artis Ratley

April 21, 1933 - March 30, 2023

Artis (Art) Ratley was born in Carthage, Texas, son of Willie Kent Ratley and Ellender Eugenia Attaway, on April 21, 1933. He treasured the Piney Woods of East Texas where he graduated from Carthage High School and attended Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas where he earned a BA in Music and an MA in Music Education. He served in the Army at Fort Sam Houston where he played euphonium in the Fourth Army Band, then moved to Harlingen, Texas after his discharge. He taught band in Harlingen from 1960 to 1964; then moved to McAllen, Texas where he taught band until retiring in 2000. He was a founding member of the McAllen Town Band, a member of several remote-control flying clubs, a long-time member of the First United Methodist Church in McAllen, an annual attendee at the Fourth Army Band Reunion for approximately 30 years, and an inductee to the Rio Grande Valley Band Director's Hall of Fame.

Art loved the Rio Grande Valley and its multicultural community, including the Spanish and Mexican influence. He enjoyed the mariachi bands and the folklorico dance performances at the regional high schools. He frequently attended high school and university music and band performances, encouraging students in their pursuits. Art served as a judge during marching season and concert contest during his teaching career and after retirement, and he was the voice of the Pigskin Marching Band competition for many years.

Art is preceded in death by his wife, Mary Selma Torres Ratley; father, Willie

Kent Ratley and mother, Ellender Eugenia Attaway Ratley; his brother Willie Gene Ratley (wife Nellie Clarine Williams Ratley Rogers), sister Jewel Ophelia (Sis) Ratley Westmoreland (husband Lawrence Elton), sister Patricia Ratley Meador, niece Janis (Sissy) Ratley Chauvin (Allen), and niece Sally Daniels (husband Tom).

Art is succeeded by his two daughters, Laura Jean Ratley Nunn of San Marcos, Texas and Linda Denise Ratley Lynch of Fruita, Coloradograndchildren Daniel Juan Tamayo of California; Anthony Nicolaus Tamayo, Linda Jean Billings, Matthew Paul Henkel, and Zachary Davis Henkel; great grandchildren Anthony Nicolaus Tamayo, Natasha Faye Tamayo, Ethan Plata, Case Wayne Curl, and Rylee Jean Curl, all of the Rio Grande Valley; and nieces and nephews across south Louisiana, Texas, and Florida.

Mr. Ratley has been remembered fondly by band students throughout the years. He typically remembered students' names and the instrument they played, often having multiple generations as students. His daughters, Laura and Linda, grew up with strong music appreciation, including marching bands and concert performances. He began his teaching years in McAllen at the original McAllen High School where the Chase Bank Tower is now located. Friends and family will gather for a visitation at 1:00p.m. on Monday, April 3, 2023 at the Hawthorn Funeral Home, 307 W. Wellington St., in Carthage, Texas, 903-693-3816 where a 2:00pm Chapel Service will occur. Immediately following, Mr. Ratley will be interred at Shady Grove Cemetery in Carthage, Texas; a memorial service will be held in McAllen in the coming months. In lieu of floral tributes, donations may be sent to the McAllen Wind Ensemble Scholarship Fund, 1921 N 25th St, McAllen, TX 78501 in Art's memory.

# Cemetery Details

## Shady Grove Cemetery

145 CR 314  
DeBerry, TX 75639

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 3. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Hawthorn Funeral Home  
307 West Wellington Street  
P.O. Box 188  
Carthage, TX 75633  
(903) 693-3816  
info@hawthornfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.hawthornfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

APR 3. 2:00 PM (CT)

Hawthorn Funeral Home Chapel  
307 W Wellington St.  
Carthage, Tx

# Tribute Wall

SW

“ *Sherry White, Terry White lit a candle in memory of Mr Artis Ratley*



Sherry White, Terry White - April 03, 2023 at 11:32 AM

SW

*For over 60 years, Art has always had a very special place in hearts of the White family memories of which he was such a huge part---We love you, Art, knowing that you are at peace brings us great solace. Our love also goes out to your daughters, Laura and Linda, and all members of your family-----and your legacy goes on as one remembers how you touched the lives of so,so many young people with the love of music.  
Our hearts are holding you tightly today---we love you Art.*

Sherry White, Terry White - April 03, 2023 at 11:47 AM

TS

“ *Though I've not had any communications with Artis recently, we did share many Carhage High band events under C J Lambrecht that I've never forgotten. Many memories that'll never be forgotten. Best wishes to his family - he was of the best. Tommy Strong*

Tommy Strong - April 01, 2023 at 09:40 PM

DR

“ *Debbie, Robert, & Mindi Robichaux purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr Artis Ratley.*



Debbie, Robert, & Mindi Robichaux - March 31, 2023 at 10:10 PM

PR

“ *Artis was a classmate of mine.... We were in the band together. He was one really great guy! My sincere sympathy to his family.*

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**Pat Reeves** - March 31, 2023 at 07:59 PM

AS

“ *As one of his band students in the 1960's, I remember him so well. He cared so much about the students he taught. And we learned so much from him. My condolences to the family. Anita Stevenson*

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**Anita Stevenson** - March 31, 2023 at 06:27 PM