



## Raymond Ronald Burgener

November 5, 1946 - January 2, 2025

Raymond Ronald Burgener, 78, died January 2, 2025 in Fort Collins, Colorado.

He was born in Fort Collins, Colorado on November 5, 1946 to Edward Burgener & Esther Burgener (Morgan).

His journey in trucking was a legacy. His parents founded Burgener Trucking in 1946 and he proudly took over, running the business successfully with a passion for equipment and creativity, always taking pride in service and reputation. He wasn't just a leader, he routinely hauled loads himself and was meticulous about every detail of the business. The family business torch was passed to his son Curt, ensuring that the family legacy would roll on. His son Cris is also active in the company.

He had an undeniable love for speed and a deep connection to the car culture, whether it was behind the wheel of his classic '57 Chevy gasser or a semi truck, going by the CB handle "Boogey Man". His enthusiasm for drag racing kept him glued to the strip, constantly pushing the limits. Off the track, he was part of the Northern Colorado Corvette Club, sharing his passion with like-minded enthusiasts.

He was active with church groups and supported various causes. He was a

man of faith and powered through life with determination, stubborn in the best way. He stood by his values and loved fiercely.

He is survived by sister Judy Fuqua, son Curt Burgener, son Cris Burgener, daughter Charissa Kinney, and grandchildren Brandon and Bailee Burgener.

Ray was a member of the Vineyard Church for years and was most recently a member of Vintage City Church in Fort Collins. He also sponsored kids so they could attend the Resurrection Christian School youth basketball camp. Contributions can be made to the Windsor Vineyard, Vintage City or Resurrection Christian School youth basketball camp in his name.

A celebration of life for Ray will be held on January 24th at 1:00 PM with a viewing from 12:00 to 1:00 PM, everyone is invited to stay for a reception from 2:-3:30pm, at Vintage City Church (1501 Academy Ct STE 101, Fort Collins, CO 80524). The celebration of life will be viewed at <https://youtube.com/live/Qhkk6A42xGc?feature=share>. All are welcome to join us in honoring Ray's life and legacy; the family asks that guests come dressed in items that remind them of Ray - trucker hats, trucker jackets, etc. A private graveside service will be held at Resthaven Memory Gardens Cemetery.

# Previous Events

## Viewing

JAN **24**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (MT)

Vintage City Church  
1501 Academy Court Ste. 101  
Fort Collins, CO 80524

## Celebration of Life

JAN **24**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (MT)

Vintage City Church  
1501 Academy Court Ste. 101  
Fort Collins, CO 80524

# Tribute Wall

BC

“ Ray always Trusted in the Lord with all of his heart and unassumingly shared this with people he cared for. I first met Ray and his Dad Ed in 1983 when they came into Fruehauf for parts.

Over the years we did business, broke bread and shared stories. Ray was an encyclopedia with truck and trailer specs as well as bridge laws. The wheels were always turning heading into the next project.

Enjoy heaven Ray! You are missed...

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**Brian Conley** - January 31, 2025 at 12:50 AM

CD

“ I apologize for being late on this, but I just read of Ray's death & funeral last week, which I wouldn't have been able to attend. I plan to watch the video of it at some point soon.

*I'm a member of Ray's former church, Peace with Christ Lutheran, in Fort Collins & had the privilege of knowing Ray for many years! I was particularly humbled to be his ride to an event for our church's 50th anniversary a few years ago. He was in rehab then, but in going through many old members names & addresses, we compiled a good list of people to send out information to, including him. He thanked me for the ride & invitation & especially enjoyed getting to see our former pastor, Rev. Jim Mueller at the event, as was I! He was a very kind, humble man, who I recall being among many, many people from PWC & elsewhere who prayed for my mom Gloria, who died of cancer in 1996. I rejoice he's no longer in pain or suffering, saying Hello to my mom again & is now with the Lord in heaven!*

*I will share news of his death with some others who knew him, who may not know he died, like Pastor Mueller.*

*I wish the family of Ray peace & comfort during this difficult time.*

*Sincerely,  
Chris Dunker  
Peace with Christ Lutheran Church*

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**Chris Dunker** - January 30, 2025 at 06:24 PM

JQ

*I first met Ray at The Vineyard of the Rockies. Ray ALWAYS greeted everyone who entered there with genuine love and respect. His Love for Jesus was ALWAYS in the forefront of his heart and he unashamedly shared his faith with heartfelt compassion. Ray was always willing to pray for others in the moment and receive prayer for himself as well. He was one of the most Godly men I've ever known and I had the privilege of knowing Ray for almost 30 years. He was a staple at the Vineyard greeting others and most recently at Vintage City church. Ray will be truly truly missed here on this side of heaven but I KNOW he is rejoicing with Jesus now! Well done good and faithful one. All my love to you my brother ☐❤!*

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**Jamie Quint** - February 07, 2025 at 06:25 PM

KR

“ For decades Ray called me his adopted daughter & I called him Dad; I was always humbled & bemused that he thought so highly of me, but he had many adopted kids, because he had so much love to give--taking nothing away from Curt, Cris & Charissa, all of whom he cherished & was so very proud of. We made a pact long ago to pray for one another every day, but I'm sure he was more faithful in that regard, & didn't fall asleep in the midst of his prayers nearly as often. He gave so much to enrich the lives of so many, including church members, basketball camp kids, drag racing friends, biker friends, chance-met friends, & those with whom he shared his encyclopedic knowledge of configuring trucks, building trucks, rebuilding wrecked trucks, engines, transmissions, mileage maximizing, best deals on tires--all things truck. While he admitted his occasionally-stumbling humanity, his strong faith in our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ shined over his life & all he did. He told me repeatedly over the years that he had the cargo shorts, t-shirt & sandals picked out for his funeral. He knew beyond a shadow of doubt that when he left us he was going home. He had so much torment over the years with injuries & health issues & bi-polar; his suffering is now ended & he is at peace. We love you, Ray. Curt, Cris, & Charissa--so sorry for your loss, & wishing you comfort in the days ahead.

*Kris Roush*

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**Kris Roush** - January 24, 2025 at 11:02 AM

WS

“ I met Ray when I first started working at Transpro, I parked at our Overland shop so I would see Ray daily. Our relationship started with him inspecting my truck inside and out everyday for the first 2-3 weeks, he always told me thank you for keeping it so clean, over the years we developed a friendship, we both loved equipment, and when I eventually moved into management, he would stop by my office almost daily to talk and ask how my wife was doing. Ray is already greatly missed and I pray peace for the family, they are Ray's legacy, and will carry on in his absence.

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**Wayne Saunders** - January 23, 2025 at 06:59 PM

LR

“ I first met Ray at Ghent Motors when he bought his truck in for repairs. He and his Dad Ed came in frequently. Some times just to go across the street to Thunderbird cafe for coffee. I enjoyed talking to Ray about his drag car. Rest in peace and enjoy your heavenly home. Larry Roberts

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**Larry Roberts** - January 22, 2025 at 04:22 PM

RK

“ The Burgener family has been part of my life since starting with Fruehauf Trailer in Denver over 40 years ago. I've had the pleasure of working with Ray, his father briefly, and sons over the years dealing with many challenges of the trucking industry. He is now without pain in a much better place. God Bless.  
Bob Kramer

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**ROBERT KRAMER** - January 21, 2025 at 03:03 PM

JS

“ Ray was a good friend and a fellow drag racer. We raced together in the late '60s and throughout the '70s. Ray was a great sportsman who was always willing to help and offer advice when asked. Ray also delivered many loads of gravel to my home at Horsetooth. I'd ask him to "tailgate" the gravel for me so I wouldn't have to shovel as much and every time he dumped it in a pile and handed me a shovel--it was our little joke between us. RIP my friend, I will always value our friendship.

Jay A. Spencer

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**Jay Spencer** - January 18, 2025 at 03:25 PM

PL

“ I did not know Ray well, but was most impressed with the man from the moment I met him. I remember him walking up to me while fueling at the end of the day and introducing himself. That struck such a chord with me because the man took time out of his day to walk up and introduce himself and to also ask my name. It meant and still means a lot, an impressive man to say the very least. Greatly missed.

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**Patrick Loughlin** - January 15, 2025 at 02:11 PM

C.

I learned so much about Ray in the 14 months I've been at Transpro. All he did for the community, his passion for the trucking industry, how he loved to race cars, those who read this know Ray much , much more than I do. He is a legend. But most of all Ray loved Jesus Christ!! He told me how Jesus transformed his life through the power of The Cross. He was a different man he said. So as I grieve I also rejoice that he is in heaven with his Savior. Amen

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**C.J.** - January 17, 2025 at 06:47 PM

MB

“ Ray will be missed by all that knew him. I will miss our lunches and talks we would have. He was a true friend and a mentor to me. He taught me more than I can express about bridge laws and truck and trailer combinations. Ray was an inspiration to me. My thoughts and prayers go out to Curt, Cris and Charissa as your Dad was a wonderful person.

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**Michael Burback** - January 13, 2025 at 10:03 PM

JB

“ God, grant eternal light and rest to Ray Burgener. And grant us, and their loved ones, the strength to carry on. In Your mercy and love, hear our prayer, For the soul of our dear departed, now and forever.

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**Jr Boyle** - January 13, 2025 at 09:33 PM

JB

“ Truly sorry to hear of Ray's passing. I learned so much from him over the years of building trucks together; his knowledge of the industry was like no one else I have ever encountered. His interactions with me and my kids were always kind and genuine. If we were all like Ray, the world would be a better place- and we'd never miss a detail!

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**James Balzer** - January 13, 2025 at 08:39 PM

DN

“ My sincere condolences to the family of Ray Burgener. I have many years of history in remembering Ray and his mom and dad. Many years ago his father was my father’s friend. My father owned Ben’s Diesel repair and Ed visited his shop often with his trucks and equipment. Years later my husband Ray Nix worked for Ray and I remember how kind and authentic he was. I remember a Christmas party that Ray hosted at the Charcoal Broiler for his employees. You will be missed Ray. You fought the fight and ran the race. I am certain that my Ray and Ray are walking the streets of gold together now.

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**Debbie Nix** - January 11, 2025 at 11:52 AM

RM

“ I was heartbroken to hear about the loss of Ray Burgener. He truly had one of the most gentle spirits I’ve ever encountered. His kindness was evident in the way he frequently checked in with me and offered his support for Neighborhoods United. His generous donations and contributions of clothing made a meaningful difference, and I will always be grateful for his thoughtfulness.

*Ray was a humble man, yet he possessed remarkable business acumen, always serving God in every facet of his life. I find comfort in the belief that when he arrived in heaven, Jesus greeted him with the words, “Well done, my good and faithful servant.”*

*Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Ray’s legacy of kindness will continue to inspire all of us who were fortunate enough to know him.*

*With deepest sympathy,*

*Ray Martinez, former Mayor of Fort Collins*

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**Ray Martinez** - January 11, 2025 at 08:19 AM

RM

*Isa 57:1-2 Good people pass away;  
the godly often die before their time.  
But no one seems to care or wonder why. No one seems to understand  
that God is protecting them from the evil to come.  
2 For those who follow godly paths will rest in peace when they die.*

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**Ray Martinez** - January 11, 2025 at 08:24 AM

LB

*Ray was a true Christian man who loved the Lord, he will be missed  
but take comfort that he is with Jesus 🙏*

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**Lu Buchholz** - January 13, 2025 at 06:00 PM