



Henry Darden Rumble Jr.

Henry Darden Rumble Jr., 80, of Birmingham, Alabama, passed away on September 6, 2024. He lived a wonderful life as a devoted son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, nephew, cousin, uncle, friend, student, officer, employee, colleague, manager, philanthropist, mentor, team-mate, and coach. He shared his infectious enthusiasm, spirited curiosity, gentle guidance, patient wisdom, and infinite love with everyone he encountered. Henry was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 3, 1944, the son of Henry Darden Rumble Sr. and Margaret Kell Rumble, and brother of Wayne, Ray, and Inez. Growing up in East Atlanta, he played baseball and basketball, collected baseball cards, loved music and movies, and feasted on more than a few items on the menu at The Varsity.

As a teenager, Henry worked at the Coca Cola bottler and once had a job taking down Christmas decorations at the shopping center, much to the chagrin of passers-by. He made up for it with a bounty of holiday spirit for years to come. Henry attended the Georgia Institute of Technology before transferring to Auburn University on an ROTC scholarship where he earned his Bachelor of Science in 1966. He was a midshipman on the USS Intrepid; attended the Naval Supply Corps School in Athens, Georgia; and served as a supply officer at the Naval Supply Depot at the U.S. Naval Station Subic Bay in the Philippines and on the USS Macdonough. He was given leave from the Navy to earn a Master of Science in Economics at Auburn University in 1968. While stationed at Charleston Naval Base in 1970, Henry met June Ellen Plaxico, and they

were married in Blacksburg, South Carolina, on November 27, 1970. They settled in Charlotte, North Carolina, where they welcomed their son, Brant, in 1973 and their daughter, Meredith, in 1977. After a brief employment with Airborne, Henry embarked on a four-decade career in banking, specializing in Human Resources, beginning with First Union in Charlotte, then First Atlanta in Atlanta, and eventually AmSouth in Birmingham, Alabama, from 1983 until he retired in 2005. He continued to work as a Human Resources consultant in retirement.

Henry was an active member of Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church before recently joining Trinity United Methodist Church. At VHUMC, he served on the church staff committee and was chair for five years. He also taught youth Sunday School and participated in the St. James/Grace and Cartwright adult Sunday School classes. Henry served on the board of Camp Fire USA for 15 years and was president for four years. He was a co-commissioner and coach for Vestavia Hills Parks and Recreation baseball and softball from 1986 to 1991, during which he introduced a playoff system, jerseys with names and numbers on the back, and a phenomenon rarely heard of at the time: fall baseball. His youth league experience was a precursor to his many joyful years of playing and organizing RASSA Senior Softball.

Henry was an inveterate fan. He loved cheering on his Auburn Tigers, and he was a lifelong devotee of the Atlanta Braves—even, coincidentally, back when they were the Milwaukee Braves, starring his all-time favorite player, Eddie Matthews. Henry enjoyed listening to Ray Charles, Nancy Wilson, Paul Simon, Linda Ronstadt, Fleetwood Mac, and the Blues Brothers, among many others. His personal theme song was “Centerfield” by John Fogerty. He was a reader of thrillers and business books, and he was known to write humorous poems to commemorate events. Henry’s taste for hot Mexican food had no bounds, and he often partook when he was visiting New York or Wisconsin to watch his grandchildren, Wilson, Walt, Sam, Rosie, and India, participate in baseball, hockey, running, basketball, or swimming.

Everyone who knew Henry knows how much he cared about others and how generously he supported their needs and their ambitions. He was always interested in another person’s development and often had good advice for helping them to achieve it. Working with him, whether in the office, or over phone and email, or in proximity to the ball field, was a unique and lasting experience. Henry loved having a true companion in June, as they spent time with friends and traveled the country to commune with family. Henry strove—in all circumstances, whether

momentous or everyday—to leave his surroundings better than he found them.

Henry was preceded in passing by his parents and his brother Ray Nance Rumble; and he is survived by June Plaxico Rumble, his wife of over 53 years; his children Brant Darden Rumble and Meredith Ellen Rumble; his daughter-in-law Kristin Jeanette Earhart and son-in-law John Walter Strange; his grandchildren, Wilson Darden Rumble, Walter Henry Strange, Samuel Lawrence Strange, Rosemary Ellen Strange, and India Earhart Rumble; his brother Joseph Wayne Rumble and sister Marcia Inez Rumble; and many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. A memorial service will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1400 Oxmoor Road, in Homewood, Alabama, on November 29, 2024. Visitation will begin at 2 p.m. CT, followed by a ceremony at 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider giving to Trinity for their Outreach Hub, or donating to organizations such as Camp Fire or the National Alliance on Mental Illness.