



# WRRI Newsletter

From the Director's Desk

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Dr. Raymond Carl Highsmith, 72, died Wednesday, July 10, 2013, at his home in Oxford, Miss. A funeral service was held at 2 p.m. July 12, 2013, at Waller Funeral Home in Oxford, with Dr. Alice Clark officiating. Burial will take place at a later date in Woodlawn Cemetery in Orlando, Fla.

Dr. Highsmith was born in Estate Center, Iowa, to the late Lewis Carl and Ruth Mary Collins Highsmith. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in zoology from the [University of Iowa](#) and a Ph.D. in marine biology from the [University of Washington](#). He was a former professor of marine biology and a researcher at the University of Alaska Fairbanks for 20 years; executive director, National Institute for Undersea Science and Technology; director, University of Mississippi Field Station and Center for Water and Wetlands Resources; and consortium director, Ecosystem Impacts of Oil and Gas Inputs to the Gulf of Mexico (ECOGIG).

An area of his life in which he never wavered or compromised was his honesty. He was an advocate for those treated unfairly. He believed that all races and ethnicities should be treated fairly.

He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Luz Hernandez Highsmith, of Oxford, Miss.; two daughters, Terry Highsmith and Dawn Ferguson, both, of Hailey, Idaho; three sons, Jun Ueki, of Japan, Jeanpierre Saldarriaga, of Orlando, Fla., and Bryant Saldarriaga, of Fairbanks; seven grandchildren, and a special niece, Dayni Padilla, of Texas.

Memorial contributions may be made in Dr. Highsmith's memory to [American Cancer Society](#), 1800 West Main Street, Tupelo, Miss. 38801.

Ray was a valued member of the Mississippi Water Resources Research Institute Advisory Board. He will be missed.

