

**RAYMOND DYER**  
**'A good brother'**

There was no shortage of tears at Coast Hotel the crisp, sunny afternoon of Feb. 23 as more than 30 friends and relatives gathered to remember Raymond "Ray Ray" Dyer, a fun-loving resident of the hotel who'd died the week before at age 54.

"(He was) always smiling and laughing about everything. Fun to be around. ... He was very easy to befriend, loved his grandchildren," fellow Coast resident, Cindy, said. Turning toward Mr. Dyer's family, she said, "I know all about you. Y'all meant the world to him."

Jeffrey, another Coast tenant, addressed the family: "I know your brother real good, too. He just lost \$20 trying to bet me with the Rams. ... He had his ways, everybody do. ... There've been so many deaths, I don't

go to all of these, but I had to go to this one. Ray was a good brother."

"He was a flirt, we're gonna miss him a lot. He was a big spirit in this building," Diane Correa, case manager at the hotel, said. "Some we get closer to than others; Ray was one of the ones we didn't have a choice, he'd just walk into the office and start telling jokes."

"He was a protector of the weak," said a nephew, who also cited Mr. Dyer's love of family and efforts to do right, before breaking down in tears, unable to continue.

Person after person testified to Mr. Dyer's love of family and high spirits, and of his love of food — "Ray Ray's ribs" and Benihana were mentioned. Ronald Dyer, his older brother, also recalled his brother promising to take him to dinner, and doing so — at Glide.

"He wasn't necessarily the best man I ever knew, but he was the best brother I ever had.

"I guess all you guys know Ray could make you laugh and piss you off in 60 seconds. He'd get real mad, but five minutes later it was on to the next thing," his brother recalled. "He'd always do the right thing when it was time."

Mr. Dyer had been a doorman at Holiday Inn, a courier and a hotel shuttle driver. He had a number of health problems and was a longtime drug user and drinker as well. He'd had a collapsed lung, and "probably had a heart attack," his brother said.

Mr. Dyer had attended Patrick Henry Elementary School, Everett Junior High and Mission High. Ronald Dyer remembered their childhood on Potrero Hill, and escapades such as

one night when Ray snuck out the window. "He went out with a natural and came back with a konk" — and acted surprised when someone noticed his new look at the breakfast table the next morning.

As a young man, he'd played the trumpet and liked Tower of Power, James Brown and the Temptations. "He thought he was one of them," his brother recalled. "He wore white shoes, the hair, did the dance steps." A band he played in cut a now all-but-forgotten 45 rpm single. Before moving to the Coast, he'd lived at the Henry Hotel on Sixth Street for 19 years.

"He lived a full life," his only child, Ashaunti Redd, said as she thanked the gathering "for being his family." "I'm going to miss him a lot. I talked to my Dad all the time. Dad didn't want to get off the phone a lot of times."

Also attending, besides his brother, daughter and nephew, were his grandsons Joshua Raymond West, Brandon West and LeAndre Thomas and granddaughters Jasmine West, Aryana Redd and Tianna West. Mr. Dyer is also survived by two sisters, Antoinette Lewis and Lillian Freeman.

"He was just like an uncle to me," said Daniel Coffman, who lived a couple of doors down from Mr. Dyer. "We would always look at the football games; sometimes I would cook." ■

— MARK HEDIN

**JAMES "PETE" LANE**  
**Handled intense pain well**

James "Pete" Lane was a courteous, cultured man who lived with great pain, and took great pains to show his appreciation for the help he

sometimes needed. This was the collective memory of those who attended his memorial service Feb. 23 at the Hamlin Hotel.

"He wouldn't let us know that he was in pain, just that he was struggling," said resident and caregiver Cassidy Blonsky, who knew Mr. Lane for the last six months of his life. "He didn't want to burden a n y b o d y because it was burden enough to him."



**James Lane**

Mr. Lane, who moved into the Hamlin in 1992, was 56 when he died Feb. 19. He was born Feb. 3, 1955, in Alabama. He studied political science at Emory University in Atlanta and planned to become a lawyer. Ultimately, however, he worked in menswear at San Francisco department stores, helping fit clothes.

"He loved that," his friend, Richie Carlson, recalled. "He always talked about that — and history. He was a very smart man, liked to tell jokes.

"He was great. He had a lot of conditions that made it hard for him to do much, but he handled it with a lot of grace. He asked for a lot of help, but cared about being independent and didn't want to burden anybody else."

Mr. Lane struggled with cancer that had reached his bones and was mostly bed-ridden in his final years. Pearl Durmas, who knew him for

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**Raymond Dyer**



**Tenderloin Technology Fair**

**Date: Saturday, May 21st**  
**Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
**Place: 150 Golden Gate Avenue 3rd Floor**

Enroll in our classes. Please RSVP to save your place! Free to all residents of the Tenderloin and to anyone who is homeless or marginally housed.

- A Class on Craigslist.com at 10:00
- A Class on what to look for When Purchasing a Computer at 10:00
- A Class on Yola.com at 12:00
- Personal PC Tutoring at 12:00

**Computer Repair**  
Bring your Laptop/Desktop to the Tenderloin Tech Fair where professionally trained ReliaTech Technicians will diagnose and repair common problems.

To RSVP please call, email or visit our front desk:  
Phone: (415) 592-2766  
Email: [FrontDesk@TenderloinTechnologyLab.org](mailto:FrontDesk@TenderloinTechnologyLab.org)

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**CMCBD Board of Directors Meetings**  
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