

## RAY FREEMAN



Ray Freeman was born in Hawthorne, Nevada, in 1946, where he lived until he graduated from high school. Following one year of college in St. George, Utah, Ray enlisted in the U. S. Army and served in the airborne infantry in Vietnam. After his discharge from the Army, Ray became a police officer, a career he pursued for the next 28 years.

Even though Ray's career path was not in the field of professional art, he cannot remember a time when art was not important to him. During childhood, Ray developed an interest in art, especially an appreciation of the landscapes and people of rural Nevada. When Ray earned his first art award in second grade, he was convinced that art would be part of his future. Because of limited opportunities for formal art training in Nevada, Ray is primarily a self-taught artist.

At various points during Ray's life, his artistic skills were often recognized by others. During high school, he was offered additional instruction by a dedicated art teacher who appreciated Ray's potential. During Ray's service in Vietnam, he was called upon to create pencil sketches of combat scenes. Those sketches were used to document meritorious actions of the men in his unit. Later, Ray illustrated recruiting brochures and portions of a police training manual. Ray used each of these opportunities to maintain his interest in art.

During Ray's career as a police officer, he was trained as a forensic artist. His renderings of faces were used as a means of identifying criminal suspects. During his time as a forensic artist, Ray discovered a love of portraiture. He often includes the faces of Nevada characters in his paintings.

Now that Ray is retired, he is pursuing a full-time career in art. He has won numerous awards in local shows and teaches oil painting classes. His work is featured at Artistic Viewpoints Gallery & Studio in Gardnerville, Nevada.

Ray and his wife, Gayle, were married in 1968. Ray's law enforcement career made it possible for his family to live in many rural Nevada communities. Life in small-town Nevada strengthened Ray's love of the vast open spaces and colorful personalities he encountered there. Ray and his wife now reside in Carson City, Nevada, not far from their children and grandchildren.