



Dale L. Gruff

JUL 8, 1935 - OCT 24, 2015



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



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Dale Lee Gruff, 80, of North Ft. Myers, Florida, passed away peacefully on Saturday, October 24, 2015 at home with his wife and daughter by his side. Born on July 8, 1935 in Highspire, PA, he has resided in North Ft. Myers for the past 25 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, John W. and Helen Mathias Gruff; sisters, Dorothy Essick, Abby DiEsposti, Lynda Baumbach and his brother John "Sonny" Gruff. Dale is survived by his wife, Sharon L. Gruff; sons, John A. Gruff of Middletown, and Dale F. Gruff of Elizabethtown; daughters, Jennifer L. Gruff and Kathleen Gruff of Middletown; nieces and nephew in PA, Abby Lynn Gabner, Denise L. Dugan, and William Baumbach; nieces and nephew in Utah, Donna Groves, Tina McPheeters and Nicholas DiEsposti. Dale retired from the former New Cumberland Army Depot with 35 years of service. He served in the United States Army from 1951 to 1953. He was a member of the Highspire VFW, the Middletown American Legion, The Moose and The Eagles in Cape Coral, Florida. He was a graduate of Highspire High School, Class of 1953. Dale was happiest when he was boating and spending time on the river at his cabin on Shelley island on the Susquehanna River. If anyone ever needed a specific bolt, hacksaw, or any type of gadget on the island, they could always count on "Bones" to have exactly what they were looking for! He also enjoyed spending time on his boat around Pine Island and Sanibel Island near his home in North Ft. Myers. He will be most remembered for being a devoted husband, a kindhearted Dad, and a generous and good natured friend. Dale will continue to live on in the hearts of his friends and family and we will all cherish the wonderful memories he's leaving behind. Dale wishes were to be cremated at Fort Myers Memorial Gardens. His ashes will be interred at the Highspire Cemetery in Highspire, PA, and a memorial service will take place in the summer of 2016 at a location to be determined by his family. In lieu of flowers, you may make a donation to the Lewy Body Dementia Association, 912 Killian Hill Rd. SW, Lilburn, GA, 30047.



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Those who would like to offer condolences to the family at this difficult time should visit Dale's memorial webpage at www.fortmyersmemorial.com and sign his guestbook.



Tribute Wall

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SF

Shelley Frank posted:

Our thought and prayers are with the family.. I always remember him at Sandy Beach and all the kids following him... So Sorry for your loss... Take Care Paul and Shelley Frank..

October 29 at 2:44 PM

MH

Millie Hammel posted:

We will forever remember those boat trips to Stump Pass with very fond memories. Dale was the best cruise director ever.Our thoughts and prayers are with you.Millie and Pete Spangler

October 29 at 2:29 PM

CT

Celia Toth posted:

Dale was our very special friend, captain of our crew, and our go-to guy for whatever we needed. With affection we can recall, repeat, and laugh at the stories that he made up for us to believe, and we did believe because Dale told us so! We are so happy that our lives were blessed with him in it the last 20 years, and he will forever remain in our hearts, minds, and memories. With love, Larry & Celia

October 29 at 12:46 PM

GH

Glenn And Sherri Harmon posted:

Sent a gift in memory of Dale L. Gruff

October 29 at 4:09 AM

KB

Kate Counsman-Black posted:

Sharon and family- my deepest sympathy to all of you! Of course my fondest memory of Dale was when I pulled an all nighter on the river! Still a fond memory after all these years! May Our Lord help you to find peace and healing. One day your tears will turn into smiles as so many wonderful memories come to mind.Hugs, Kate Counsman-Black

October 28 at 4:30 PM



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AN

~K posted:

Beautifully written obituary, Being a fellow Pittsburgh Steeler Fan, I am sure he will be waving his terrible towel in heaven. God Bless Mr. Gruff and his family. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

October 28 at 3:57 PM

DZ

Dave & Leslie Zandron posted:

R.I.P. My friend. We will always remember that smile.

October 28 at 3:37 PM

LY

Lois Yeager posted:

Condolences to Sharon and his children. I have fond memories of the man that "tried" to teach me to water ski on the river and took me for my first "skipper" ride.

October 28 at 2:46 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Dale by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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