



Gerald "Jerry" Richard Coon

June 13, 1936 - June 5, 2020

Gerald (Jerry) Richard Coon came into the world June 13, 1936, like most babies at that time he was born at home which was Danville, Illinois. He was the oldest child born to Paula Coon (Roberts) and Henry E. Coon, but would later become big brother to Dennis, Reva, Rhonda and Bill. He spent most of his childhood up until young adulthood in Illinois, surrounded by family. His dad taught him how to fish and hunt and go junkin. Junkin was his favorite family activity. They would go thru the junk piles and find items to piece together to make better items. His summers were spent with his family camping beside the river. Hunting and fishing during those times are among his fondest memories and fostered a love of the outdoors that stayed with him until the end. A month after he turned 18 he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He would go on to spend 21 years in the service, during that time getting married to Marilyn Vrabel Williams that marriage which lasted 21 years produced 4 children, Andy, Bernadette, Tommy and Teri. He retired from the Air Force and began work at Phillip Morris from which he retired after 18 years. During that career transition, his marriage to Marilyn had ended and he started a new chapter with Helen Leighty Coon. She had three children from her previous marriage, Jeff, Earl, and Bobby. Together they became a beautiful blended family who celebrated holidays, vacations, birthdays and all of life's celebrations together. He attended every high school (except one and I am sure he was there in spirit) and college graduations. He was there for the births of his grandkids and great grand kids and held each new addition to his legacy with strong loving arms. He was so proud of his family. He provided guidance, wisdom and support. He wanted to know how everything worked and ensured that you understood how it worked at well. He was an outdoors man, hunting for morel mushrooms and teaching his kids, grandkids, and great grandkids how to fish. He passed his love for the outdoors down thru the generations so much so that he hand built a home on the lake for his family to gather and make memories to last a lifetime. Intense discussions, lessons and love were passed around his dinner table, where you could usually find him after a hard day's work outside. He never shied from a good debate, but also listened and considered your opinion. He loved politics and never missed an election working the polls up until the very last ballot was cast. He donated gallons upon gallons of blood throughout his lifetime. He was respected and loved and will be missed by the family he leaves

behind, a large blended family that reflects the years of love, devotion and lessons he instilled during his lifetime. He was constantly working hard and fighting to make his life and himself better than the day before. From a poor boy born in Illinois, he built a proud life, he built a proud family, he built a legacy. On June 5, 2020 after fighting cancer for a year and a half he gave up the fight and joined his creator in heaven. There is not a doubt in my mind that when he stood before his heavenly father and looked back over his life he said well done, Jerry, well done. He is preceded in death by his father Henry Coon, his mother Paula Coon Roberts, his brother Dennis Coon, his brother Bill Roberts, his sister Rhonda Orrao his wife Helen Coon and there dog Snoozi. He is survived by his children, Andy Coon (Marsha), Bernadette Coon Jones (Casper), Tommy Coon (Susan) and Teri Ruby (Greg) his stepchildren Jeff Leighty (Glennis), Earl Leighty (Laura), Bob Leighty (fiancée' Georgia) . His sister Reva Coon Hodges (Harold), his sister in law Harriette Moore. 30 Grandkids and 19 Great Grand kids (with one on the way making it 20) Aunts, Uncles, Nieces and Nephews. And the two angels Rosa and SaHra that God sent to help take care of Jerry. In lieu of donations Jerry would want you to get out and vote, donate blood and just try to be a better person, learn how things work and be a contributing member of society. A drive-in funeral service will be conducted at 11:00 a.m., Friday, June 12, 2020 in the parking lot of the Chester Chapel of J.T. Morriss & Son Funeral Home. While in the parking lot, please visit www.jtmorriss.com to watch a live stream of the service. Also, please consider visiting the funeral home website or calling into the funeral home to leave a Hug from Home signifying your attendance at the service. A private interment will be held in Bermuda Memorial Park.

Cemetery

Bermuda Memorial Park
1901 Bermuda Hundred Road
Chester, VA, 23836

Events

JUN 12 **Private Services** 11:00AM

Chester Chapel
3050 W. Hundred Road, Chester, VA, US, 23831

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



J.T. Morriss & Son Funeral Home - June 12, 2020 at 09:50 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Richard Coon.



June 15, 2020 at 11:06 AM



“ Jerry was a friend and neighbor. He and Bill enjoyed many long conversations on our porch and in the yard when they were doing yard work. He really enjoyed his garden and his tomatoes were the best I've ever tasted and he shared them generously with his neighbors. We have missed him being in his yard every day. Bill and Rena

Bill Zatelli - June 12, 2020 at 11:28 AM



“ You had a great run Jerry...You touched many lives over the years. I'll always be grateful that you were there for Rhonda and the kids in the early years. Have many great memories up at the lake house. Also thank you for your service to our Country. Rest In Peace.



Pete Orrao - June 12, 2020 at 07:58 AM



“ Growing up we didn't get to visit Mom's (Rhonda) side of the family as much as we would have liked; but when we did, we always went to visit Uncle Jerry and Helen & family in Virginia. Wonderful memories of Thanksgivings and the lake house. Uncle Jerry and Aunt Helen also came to visit us in Florida on their trips to visit Harriet. We are so blessed to have been part of their lives and can remember all the laughs that we enjoyed. The one thing that we always joked with Uncle Jerry was, that every year he never got older and never changed. Same hair, clothes, what he ate, etc...He loved the fact that he lived a simple life, and we loved him for who he was. Jerry touched our lives and our hearts; his kind soul will never be forgotten. He has joined so many people that we love and I can only imagine the homecoming that was for him. Give my Mom, Helen, and Grandma Roberts hugs for us. Love Rhonda's 3 musketeers: Shannon, Ben, Shirah and our families.



Shannon Bengston-Knowles - June 12, 2020 at 12:12 AM



“ Uncle Jerry was a unique, beautiful soul who will always hold a very special place in my heart. He was truly one-of-a-kind. I have so many fond memories of time spent at the house on Okuma drive, as well as the lake house. I celebrated my 1st birthday at his house, had several Easter egg hunts in his backyard (also fed many squirrels peanuts!), played with Snoozy on the deck, and had many wonderful Thanksgivings and a few Christmases there. Even though we were always miles apart down in Florida, he was always a part of my life growing up. Always loved a good debate, a great conversationalist:) He had a big heart and touched countless lives in immeasurable ways. What a legacy of love, kindness, and humor he’s left behind- I’ve shared many stories of him with my two girls. My heart goes out to all of my Virginia family, I miss all of you and truly wish I could be to commemorate such a great man. My guess is he’s already playing cards with Mom, Aunt Helen, and Grandma Roberts right now. Love you Uncle Jerry, you will be greatly missed...



Shirah Hoffman - June 11, 2020 at 10:20 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Richard Coon.



June 11, 2020 at 11:18 AM



“ 35 files added to the album LifeTributes



J.T. Morriss & Son Funeral Home - June 10, 2020 at 05:05 PM



“ Grandpa taught me that nothing comes from nothing. And starting at the bottom builds character. I never really got to get super close with him like other family members did but the few good memories I do have with him are nothing less than brilliant. Although his passing is certainly sad, his aches and pains and doubts, and struggles are over. He shall rip next to his beloved. We'll miss him but with all the good memories he, will always live lively in our hearts.

AJ - June 12, 2020 at 03:21 PM



“ I got to know Dad Coon Throughout many years of family celebrations, get togethers, birthdays, weddings and funerals. He always had a smile, a quick witted saying and was a very amiable man. He loved his family and loved celebrating them and with them. Kurt and I send all love and prayers to all his family

Kathie and Kurt Beach - June 10, 2020 at 09:17 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Richard Coon.



June 09, 2020 at 10:03 PM



“ WE ONCE DROVE IN THE EARLY BEGINNING OF DIRT TRACK RACING. WE HAD AN OLD FORD AND A LOT OF WIRE. WILL THINK OF YOU OFTEN AS I HAVE FROM THE EARLY DAYS.

GERALD GARWOOD - June 09, 2020 at 03:06 PM



“ I never knew Jerry and from reading of his amazing life I'm sure it's my loss. What a wonderful testimony to him from his blended family. My heart goes out to you all. May God give you peace in Jerry's absence. Love from (just an ordinary person)

jane Atkins Burijon - June 09, 2020 at 03:17 PM



“ From STS Aviation Group purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Richard Coon.



From STS Aviation Group - June 09, 2020 at 10:33 AM



“ I have many fond memories of Jerry, he was very special. It amazes me how he had so many grandchildren and always attended: births, birthday parties, swim meets, wrestling matches, baseball games, soccer games, racing, dance recitals, high school and college graduations and weddings. Not just in Virginia but Michigan and North Carolina. You have earned your time to Rest in Peace

Susan Coon - June 09, 2020 at 09:52 AM



“ You will NEVER be forgotten, we will ALWAYS remember the things you did for our family & the times we spent at Lake Anna with you & Sis, that you built from the ground up, and the FAMILY reunions , it was so peaceful & great fishing!! the grandkids will never forget seeing Santa Clause & feeding the reindeer that Christmas we spent up there,they still talk about it!!!! we all love you and Sis , RIP

Harriette Moore - June 08, 2020 at 09:59 PM



“ Love you Harriette

Marsha - June 09, 2020 at 08:21 AM



“ Thank you for the memories, the laughs the love and all the lessons, we will see you again.

Destiney & Russ Whitley - June 08, 2020 at 06:57 PM



“ RIH GRANDPA....RUSS AND DESTINEY WE R PRAYING 4 THE FAMILY.🙏

Coretta King - June 09, 2020 at 06:27 AM