



George Harry Day

March 22, 1939 - February 19, 2021

CMSGT George H. Day

George Harry Day, 81, of Altavista, VA passed away on Friday, February 19, 2021 at Centra Lynchburg General Hospital, Lynchburg, VA. He was the husband of Carol Ann Charland Day for 60 years.

He was born on March 22, 1939 in Portland, ME, the son of Robert Emerson Day and Winona Rose McAllister Day. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Debra Ann Bivens and her husband Norman of Semora, NC, his son Robert William Day and his wife Julie of Tellico Plains, TN and his daughter, Brenda Marie Day of Altavista, VA; a brother Edward Day and his wife Dawn of New Bern, NC, a sister Marlene Russell of Yarmouth, ME; a sister in law, Judy Day of South Portland, ME; grandchildren Jason Bivens, Katherine Bivens Adams and husband Harley, Lindsay Bivens; Jeffrey Robert Day and his wife, Emily, Courtney Leigh Day and Morgan Ashley Day; two great grandchildren, Sev Hutton and Eloise Day, and while awaiting the birth of Jeffrey Wilder Day.

He was preceded in death by his brother Roger Day; and good friend Hubert Davis of Maryville, TN.

George grew up traveling on a steam engine with his brother and his grandfather, Harry D. McAllister, the train's engineer, from South Portland, ME to South China, ME to spend time on his grandparent's farm. When he grew older, he became a football player for South Portland High School and was an offensive lineman. It was there that he met the love of his life and Head Majorette, Carol Charland. He also worked on a tugboat in Portland Harbor and delivered oil for Harris Oil Company.

After graduating from South Portland High School in 1958, he joined the United States Air Force on August 23, 1959. He served as a Weather Observer at Niagara Falls, New York. George and Carol were married on August 28, 1960.

While in the Air Force, his military career sent him to New York, North Carolina, Illinois, New Hampshire, and Washington, DC and included a year of service in Vietnam. In 1972, he became an instructor at the I.G. Brown Professional Military Education Center at McGhee Tyson Air Base, Maryville TN. In 1980, he was selected as one of six outstanding Non-Commissioned officers of the Air National Guard and was awarded the P MEC Instructor of the Year. At the P MEC, he and others developed strategies for Career Retention, many of which are still being implemented today. He was named Air Force Senior Career Adviser at the Air National Guard Support Center at Andrews AFB until 1983. Among the awards and decorations he received were the Airman's Medal, Bronze Star, USAF Commendation Medal with two bronze clusters, the Vietnamese Instructor Honor Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Desiring to further his education, George earned a BS in Education in 1976 and a MS in Technical and Adult Education in 1984 from the University Tennessee.

After retiring from the United States Air Force as a Chief Master Sergeant with 26 years of service, George continued to teach and train others. At Tennessee Associates Incorporated, he served as a consultant to several large corporations including Amtrak, Healthy Choice and ConAgra. He worked with ALCOA in the training and implementation of a new continuous rolling mill in the plant until 1992, when he retired a second time.

George and Carol began traveling in their RV, and desired to see as much of the country as they could. Serving as Foretravel RV Directors, they led tours and RV caravans across the US and Canada. They traveled for the next seven years making many friends along the way. Finally deciding to plant roots, they settled in Altavista, VA to be close to family. Not one to sit around, George was interested in helping start Virginia Technical Institute (VTI.) He became the school's first instructor and then Dean of Curriculum and Instruction. He was quoted in an article in the Altavista Journal as saying, "a teacher has to be someone who sees ability in others, encourages them to take advantage of their natural skills and then motivates them to figure out what to do with the rest of their lives."

More than anything, George loved to tell stories of the past and bring it to life for his family and friends, preserving it for all of us. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

The family suggests those wishing to make memorials consider St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-9956.

Finch and Finch Funeral and Cremation Service, Altavista is in charge of arrangements.

Comments



“ Dear Carol and family, I am so saddened by the passing of Georgie. I have so many happy memories of you all. Carol, you and Georgie were the first friends of Art's that I met and that was in the Fall of 1957! I remember Georgie coming to Art's surprise 50th and how much it meant to him. I can picture them together now hashing over old times! My love and prayers to you all and please keep in touch and stay safe.

Dot Gonyea
South Portland, Maine & Bradenton, Florida

Dorothy Gonyea - March 04 at 02:00 PM



“ Dear Carol and family, so sorry and shocked to read of George's passing today in the Portland Press Herald. Our prayers are with you. Many great memories from Jr High and High School days when life was quite different.

Pete & Mary Anne Gallagher
Plymouh, MA

Peter J. Gallagher - February 28 at 01:58 PM



“ Carol and family,
May God comfort you richly. It was shocking to read George's obituary in the Journal.

Sang-il and June Lee - February 25 at 02:03 PM



“ I met George at VTI in Altavista. A man with a lot of knowledge. Really down to earth and kind. He will be missed. Praying for his family and friends.



Mary Moses Hicks - February 24 at 07:42 AM



“ Words can't express how sad I feel about the passing of my Friend, George!!! I have so many great memories of the two of us hanging out and spending time enjoying each other!! What George talked about most was his family and the many places he has been. I would just sit and listen as we ate lunch at one of the many places we would go for lunch or sitting with him in his office at VTI...George really believed in me and I can truly say that if it wasn't for him then I would not have graduated as an electrician from VTI!! George would take the time out his busy schedule to study with me and even sometime give me a practice quiz because he wanted me to succeed!! I could go on and on about the greatest friend a fellow can have!!! I Love You George and you will Always be Remembered and in my heart and mind you will be with me!!! Take care my Friend!!!!

Gary D. Gillispie Sr.
138 Holland Ct. Rustburg,VA 24588

gary gillispie sr - February 24 at 01:14 AM