



Martin Frederick Grau

June 14, 1913 - January 6, 2014

Martin Frederick Grau of Altavista, passed away on January 6, 2014 at his home after several years of declining health. He was born on June 14, 1913 in St. Charles, Missouri, the son of Herman Carl Henry Grau and Clara Anna Marie Nollie Grau.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his beloved wife of sixty-nine years, Leona Gillham Grau, his stepmother, Clara Aguste Mittler Grau, who helped raise him from age three, two sisters and one brother.

Martin revered his family, church, friends and neighbors, his community, country and Mother Nature. He graduated from Iowa State University, Aimes, with a degree in forestry. During the depression he joined the Civilian Conservation Commission. He served with the U.S. Army as First Sergeant during World War II and trained troops on the west coast before they debarked for the Pacific Theater. In 1952 he moved his family to Virginia where he became a forest manager for U.S. Gypsum Company for 26 years before his retirement.

Martin was a devout Christian from an early age. After coming to Virginia he became a member of the First Baptist Church of Altavista. There he served as Sunday School teacher for the nine year old boys, on the usher/greeter committee, the building/grounds committee, helped with church transportation

vehicles, and did church breakfast kitchen duties. He was active in the Altavista Lions Club and remained on their roster until his death. In 1994, he was named "Lion of the Year" by club members; Martin served as a volunteer for D.A.W.N. When failing health reduced his waking hours to resting and walking he always carried a plastic bag to retrieve litter from city streets.

His favorite pastimes were his yard and garden from which he shared much of the fruits of his labors, reading, water skiing, and teaching others to enjoy the fun and exercise, music, the stock market and travel. A child always brought a smile to his face. Martin and Leona visited all fifty states including an Alaskan cruise for their fiftieth wedding anniversary. They also enjoyed touring in Canada, Germany and Austria.

Left to cherish his memory are his daughters Sharron Grau Doss of Altavista and Carol Grau Kenney and husband, Doug, of Roanoke. Martin was a proud "Paw-paw" to his only grandchild, Douglas Martin Kenney, wife Marci, and three beautiful great grandchildren, all of the Atlanta, Georgia area. Also surviving are two nephews of Mississippi, one niece of Alabama, and several great grandnieces and grandnephews.

A funeral service will be conducted at 11:00 a.m., Monday, January 13, 2014 at First Baptist Church by the Rev. Dr. Michael S. Lee. Interment will follow in Green Hill Cemetery with military honors by American Legion Altavista Memorial Post 36 and V.F.W. Post 4165 .

The family will receive friends from 6:30-8:00 p.m., Sunday at Finch and Finch Funeral and Cremation Service, Altavista and other times at the residence.

The family wishes to express our appreciation to each of Martin's caregivers of several years: Debbie Bernard, Michelle Stone, Barbara Kraft, Hospice of the Hills and the First Baptist Church Family. The tender care you gave in

Marin's behalf helped sustain us all. We feel richly blessed for your efforts.

The family suggests that those wishing to make memorials consider The First Baptist Church of Altavista, 1001 Bedford Ave., Altavista, VA 24517, The Alzheimer's Association, 1160 Pepsi Place, Ste. 306, Charlottesville, VA 22901, or the American Heart Association, 4217 Park Place Ct., Glen Allen, VA 23060.

Cemetery Details

Green Hill Cemetery

300 Westwood Drive
Altavista, VA 24517

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 12. 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Finch and Finch, Altavista
809 Main St.
Altavista, VA 24517

Funeral Service

JAN 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church
1001 Bedford Ave.
Altavista, VA 24517

Tribute Wall

JO

“ so sorry lois and Sherman lawhorn



joycedalton - January 10, 2014 at 01:07 PM

JC

“ First Baptist was a wonderful place to grow up in as a child. I remember Mr. and Mrs. Grau as important parts of that church. Mr. Grau was a dignified and friendly man who was always ready to smile and listen. My condolences to you, Sharron and Jeannie

Jerry P Carr

jerry carr - January 10, 2014 at 05:48 AM

SK

“ I am so very sorry to hear of your loss. I know that your father will be remembered as a wonderful man who meant so much to so many. You're in my thoughts, now and in the days to come. With deepest sympathy, Sylvia

Sylvia Kenney - January 09, 2014 at 08:26 PM

SF

“ We fondly remember the many visits we have had with Uncle Martin and Aunt O. We loved the walks in the woods and our shared summer vacations to the Nagg's Head Beach back in 1962. Love Steve & Micki Ferguson

Steve Ferguson - January 09, 2014 at 08:24 AM



“ *He was a very kind & gentle person , I will miss him so much. Rest in heaven God loves you , I love you also*

Gail Craft - January 08, 2014 at 07:47 PM



“ *Gail Craft lit a candle in memory of Martin Frederick Grau*



Gail Craft - January 08, 2014 at 07:34 PM



“ *Karen Daniel lit a candle in memory of Martin Frederick Grau*



Karen Daniel - January 08, 2014 at 05:48 PM



Uncle Martin you will be missed. "Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal."

Karen Daniel - January 08, 2014 at 05:51 PM



Sharron and Jeannie, you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Karen Daniel - January 08, 2014 at 06:03 PM

MK

“ Today the world lost an amazing man. Douglas' 100 year old grandfather went to heaven to be with Granny. In his honor we put up our (HUGE) tent in Samantha's bedroom and all three of Martin's great grandchildren slept in it. Pa-Pa used to put a tent in the backyard and sleep with Douglas all the time. We sat in the tent and shared our favorite memories of him tonight. Our hearts are heavy but we feel sure that he is in the most awesome place dancing with Granny.



Marci Kenney - January 08, 2014 at 01:38 PM

HD

“ Heather Dudley lit a candle in memory of Martin Frederick Grau



Heather Dudley - January 08, 2014 at 10:49 AM

PR

“ Patsy Reynolds lit a candle in memory of Martin Frederick Grau



patsy reynolds - January 08, 2014 at 08:03 AM



“ *Robert Finch lit a candle in memory of Martin
Frederick Grau*



Robert Finch - January 07, 2014 at 08:55 PM