



Geoffrey B. Vernon

OCT 18, 1946 - OCT 10, 2017



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Geoffrey Burnside Vernon, 70, of Rehoboth Beach, passed away Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2017, at Beebe Healthcare, Lewes, of congestive heart failure. He was born Oct. 18, 1946, in Wilmington, son of the late Albert Burnside Vernon and Marilyn “Will” Crook Vernon.

Geoff spent his early years in Odessa before moving to Rehoboth Beach as a youngster, living on Henlopen Avenue and attending Rehoboth Elementary School and Junior High before graduating from Rehoboth High School in 1964, one of “The Seahawks, a Dying Breed.” Geoff ventured off to Pittsburgh, Pa., to attend Robert Morris College, and then enrolled in the U.S. Coast Guard, traveling the high seas as an electronics technician. Upon discharge, Geoff returned to Rehoboth Beach, where he pursued a number of career paths, including as a real estate agent for Howard-Vernon Real Estate, where his older brother William H. Vernon, along with Charles Howard presided. Geoff decided real estate was not his chosen profession and soon embarked upon a career as a merchant and screen printer. He worked with Karen Shaud at the former Doc’s variety store on Rehoboth Avenue before they established Designs on You on Airport Road. He was the original designer of the “Dela-Where?” T-shirts that are still very popular to this day, and sported by then-Gov. Pete duPont. Soon this evolved into Logomotive, a screen printing shop in Lewes, where he supplied apparel to many businesses, sports teams and nonprofit organizations. He also was employed at Nixon Uniforms in Wilmington for a number of years in the 1990s.

Geoff was also the designer of the first Cape Gazette logo and its first editorial cartoonist, and enjoyed creating clever greeting cards and “Tourist Go Home” party shirts for friends and family. He was a feature writer for the now-defunct Whale, the News Journal, Beach Life magazine and Sailing magazine, in which he wrote an illustrated adventure with the late Delaware artist Jack Lewis around the Chesapeake Bay.

He especially enjoyed being out on the Inland Bays and ocean in one of his less-than-trustworthy vessels. Each day was an adventure, often ending at the Rusty Rudder dock, having designed its logo for Jay Prettyman in 1979. He also enjoyed his trips to Ireland with his wife Allison, especially



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the western coast of Ireland, where “The Quiet Man” was filmed. Trips to Chincoteague, Va., were also high on the list, reveling at the space shots from Wallops Island. He was a member of American Legion Post 5 and Rehoboth Beach VFW Post 7447.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Allison Murphy Vernon; and his brother, William H. “Bill” Vernon.

He is survived by his son, Glenn Burnside Vernon and his wife Charity of Rehoboth Beach; his brother, Gainan C. Vernon of Rehoboth Beach; his former wife, Patricia “Trish” Vernon of Rehoboth Beach; his sister-in-law, Sharon Vernon and her children Jennifer and William of Rehoboth Beach; and his close friend, Sherry Calloway of Odessa.

Graveside services will be held at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at Old Drawyers Cemetery; North DuPont Highway, Odessa, DE.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions in Geoff’s memory to the Brandywine SPCA Georgetown Shelter: 22918 Dupont Boulevard; Georgetown, DE 19947.

Please sign the online guestbook located on this site.

FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE DELIVER ALL FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS BY 9 AM WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017 TO OUR LEWES LOCATION.



Events

Geoffrey B. Vernon

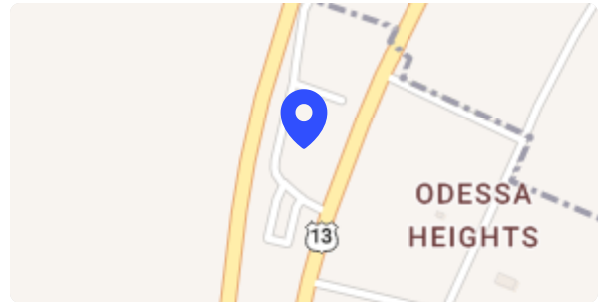
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Graveside Service

 **Wednesday**, October 18, 2017

 1:00 PM ET

 **Old Drawyers Church Cemetery**
North Dupont Highway, Odessa DE 19730





Tribute Wall

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Paris Morgan posted:

I wasn't originally from Rehoboth but my parents made me work in a boardwalk soda shop when I was 18. I didn't know anyone and I lived in a room in my bosses' house. At night I would sit on the boardwalk and see 4 guys my age walking along. Oh how I wanted to meet them. One of them was Geoff, of course, and somehow I did meet them. There were several summers of lots of parties and fun creating a life long bond of friendship. My family lives in Rehoboth now and Geoff would always welcome me whenever I landed "home." He would chatter away giving me all the news of friends and include me in the get togethers. What a special friend that I shall remember always.

December 31 at 4:35 AM



Fred Lessig posted:

Geoff was working at his drawing table when I met him. I showed him my portfolio and he steered some t-shirt design work my way. He taught me how to coat and burn a printing screen, set up a four color press, get the most out of that limited print process. Under his cynical pose he was sentimental about the old Rehoboth, before the outlets, before the traffic jams, before the beach curfew when people had late night beach fires and slept out on the sand. He was a good artist, a great art director, an appreciator of excentric characters but mostly he was a generous friend. The beach community will miss him. I will miss him. Fred Lessig

October 20 at 1:07 AM



Gene Cowell lit a candle in honor of Geoffrey.



October 19 at 3:57 PM



Carol Lingo posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time. Ken & Carol Lingo

October 14 at 5:08 AM



Anonymous sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the Vernon family.



October 13 at 5:44 AM



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BM

Bill McClain posted:

Glenn, Charity & Trish, We are so sorry for your loss. We will keep all of you in our thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time! We are very grateful to have been able to share so many memories with you over the many years of vacationing in Delaware. With love from your friends in Pittsburgh - Bill, Judy & Travis McClain

October 12 at 5:04 PM

DM

Don Messick posted:

We Seahawks are a disappearing breed: Geoff was certainly one of the "leaders" of this small but tenacious group. Bill was the serious brother, Geoff was the talented artist and witty writer. Each time we would get together another forgotten memory would come up. From parties, to boating, water skiing, "caskets" in the living room to surf fishing and tourist go home parties. Keep them laughing up there friend.

October 12 at 1:11 PM

DE

Denise posted:

One of the most gifted storytellers I ever met as well as being a talented visual artist. I never laughed so hard as listening to Geoff tell a story about local people. Glad I knew him even for a brief time.

October 12 at 5:28 AM

JG

John Gardoski posted:

Hearing of Geoff's passing was very sad news for me. I met Geoff in the summer of 1984 when I went to work for him at "Designs on you" it was my first summer job during high school. Geoff was one of the most all around nicest and talented people that I knew, he was a great friend. Outside of work although I was just a teen at the time he would always invite me to hang out with him and his friends he was just an all around fun guy and I do miss hearing his laugh. Geoff's amazing artwork inspired me so much that I ended up purchasing the screenprinting company "Designs on you" from him in 1989. John Gardoski Jr.

October 11 at 3:02 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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