



Leroy "Roy" Trice Gravatte III

July 23, 1936 - February 15, 2021

Roy Gravatte, as he was known, was born in Washington, D.C. on July 23, 1936. He passed peacefully at home in Bethany Beach, Delaware on February 15, at the age of 84.

Roy was preceded in death by his parents, Frances Miller Gravatte, Leroy Trice Gravatte, II, and his sister Martha Lu Gravatte. He is survived by his brother, Charles and his wife Frances.

Having grown up in Alexandria, Roy attended G.W. High School, and rowed for the G.W. National Championship Crew Team. From an early age, he spent the summers in Bethany Beach at his family's vacation home and was a lifeguard for the Bethany Beach Patrol.

After graduating in 1960 from Virginia Tech with a degree in Civil Engineering, Roy served for a time in the Naval Reserve, then worked at the GSA until creating his own engineering firm, Professional Engineers. Later in his career his engineering focus shifted to expert witness work in the Elevator and Escalator industry until retirement in his late 70's. He was also a licensed Real Estate Broker where he invested in real estate in the DC and Bethany Beach areas.

In 1974, Roy purchased the Addy Sea, an historic oceanfront Bed and Breakfast in Bethany Beach, from the Addy family, founding members of Bethany since 1901. The Addy Sea was his true passion and a symbol of the Gravatte family legacy in Bethany Beach. Through his vision and restoration, it has become a premier destination on the Delaware Coast. It is still being operated by his family.

While in college, Roy married his high school sweetheart Gail Fitzpatrick and together they raised three children in their family home in Springfield, VA.

Roy was a spirited, enthusiastic Virginia Tech Hokie endlessly proud of his alma mater. He loved to fly his Hokie flag and dress in his Hokie apparel. He never missed a Virginia Tech football game and was a season pass holder until 2019.

Roy was a dedicated Rotarian. His home base was The Rotary Club of Alexandria where he volunteered as Santa on King Street each Christmas. He also attended the Rotary Club of Southern Sussex in Delaware, maintaining his 100% attendance, and hosted the eagerly anticipated Christmas Breakfast each year at the Addy Sea. Roy was also a civic leader and was appointed as the President of Orange Hunt Civic Association and he was also elected and served on the Bethany Beach Town Council. He was also a member of the Mason's as was his father.

Time on the beach, socializing with friends, an annual birthday party, rounds of golf, dips in the ocean, and spending winter months in Florida with his girlfriend of 24 years, Sue Cooley, were Roy's other favorite pastimes. Attendance at Ocean View Church of Christ as well as the Beach Fellowship in Bethany Beach, and McGregor Baptist Church in Ft. Myers, Florida enhanced his exuberant love of the Lord.

Roy leaves behind his children and their spouses: Trice & Laurel Gravatte, Gini (Gravatte) & Neal Bepko, Jeff & Sherene Gravatte; his grandchildren: Jessica (Ian Loch), Tyler, Meredith, Adam (Allison), Laura, Addy, Jamie, and Sarah; and his two great-grandchildren, Rowan and Carter Loch.

Roy never met a stranger who didn't become a friend. If asked, "How are you?", his response was always, "Better than I deserve".

The family will hold a graveside service in Alexandria, Virginia, where he considered his true home to be.

In lieu of flowers, please honor Roy and his life by donating to Rotary International or Ocean View Church of Christ.

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.

Events

FEB **Floral Delivery** 04:00PM
22

Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel
16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE, US, 19958

Comments



“ I just learned the sad news. Trice helped so many people and will be missed.

James Flentje - March 11 at 01:23 PM



“ I did not know Roy, but did know his late sister, Martha Lu. I was a childhood friend of Martha Lu's and was very impacted by her passing in 7th grade of spinal meningitis. I have thought of her often through the years. I remember which house she lived in (off Cameron Mills Rd. in Alexandria, VA) and reflect on her when I occasionally pass by there. We were classmates at George Mason Elementary. I'm so sorry that she didn't live to grow up. If there is a way that their brother, Charles, could be in touch with me, I'd appreciate it. I am reachable via Facebook Messenger as Susan Katz Clark. Thank you.

Susan Clark - March 06 at 11:44 AM



“ To the Family of Leroy Gravatte,

I met Mr. Gravatte in the early summer of 1970. I had just graduated from Howard University in Washington, DC. I visited GSA's Headquarters office in search of employment and was referred to visit Mr. Gravatte at the GSA regional office in southwest DC. I met with him and he gladly welcomed me into the GSA family. About six weeks later I was offered a position as an electrical engineer intern. I remain eternally grateful to him for bringing my difficult and stressful job search to a very rewarding conclusion. He changed the course of my life and helped to make me the person I am today. He was quite a "gentle" man.

May God bless the Gravatte family and know that I am grateful for his presence on this earth.

Most Sincerely.

Ezel Silver Jr.

Ezel Silver - March 05 at 10:43 PM



“ Leeroy would always light up the Barber Shop whenever he came by. The guys at Bobs Barber Shop in Springfield will miss the Stories GOD bless you Lee Roy. We know you enjoyed your time at the beach..

Bob & Carolyn "Bobs Baber Shop"

Bob Stockton - March 02 at 03:00 PM



“ We were so sorry to hear of Roy's passing and want to extend our love, thoughts and prayers to all the family during this difficult time. No one can ever replace him as he was one of a kind!

We had many good and fun times together with our shared interests in Rotary, golf, The Hokies and martinis. It's much too quiet now.

Our sincere condolences,
Teddy and Lonny Marchant

The Marchants - March 02 at 08:49 AM



“ Got a call today informing me of Roy's passing and send my most sincere condolences. I have many memories of my cousin including family visits to Bethany Beach where there would be 4 LeRoy T's at one time, as I was named after his grandfather as was Roy and his father. You can imagine the response when someone called for Roy. During our high school and early college days we had some great poker games at his house and by chance he was assigned to my Company for his final year at Tech. I also rowed for GWHS as did his brother Bucky who was a classmate of mine and we were friends there. I would occasionally meet up with Roy at Class reunions and football games in Blacksburg as I am also a HOKIE nut and get season tickets every year. I knew his wife Gail from High School and when she was at Radford where my wife was as well. By coincidence, I thought of calling Roy today to see if he had heard of her passing on February 6. She lived in Williamsburg, where I reside as well. If anyone would like to contact me I can be reached at royburrows1@cox.net or 757-784-0351.

LeRoy Burrows

LeRoy T. Burrows - March 01 at 03:01 PM



“ My husband Bob Conley and I shed tears on learning of Roy's passing. Roy was such a part of Bob's life for so many years in good times and a few not so good times. I always saw Roy as an amazing person with an outgoing personality that people loved. We will miss him and will pray for him and the entire Gravatte family.

Robert Conley - March 01 at 11:46 AM



“ In 1973 I bought a home on Bridlewood Dr in Springfield Va and became the next door neighbor to Roy Gravette and family. We have been close friends for almost 50 years. We shared many good times at Bridlewood, Bethany Beach and more recently in Florida during the winter months where we meet for three hour lunches. Roy was a remarkable person in many ways and it was an honor to have him as part of my life. His passing has left a large void and I will greatly miss him. Good bye my dear friend. I will cheer on Virginia Tech for you.
Bob Conley

Robert Conley - March 01 at 11:23 AM



“ Le Roy and I went to GW hi school together. What a great time to grow into our teen years. Jess and I last saw Roy several years ago at the Big Fish grill in Rehoboth and talked about GW days. I agree “meet Roy one time” that started a lasting friendship.
Our condolences to the family.
Rilda(Furman) Hendrix—Jess Hendrix

rilda hendrix - February 28 at 08:06 AM



“ I was privileged to know Roy virtually his entire life as we grew up together in the same Alexandria neighborhood, went to the same grade school and high school, rowed on the same National Championship crew, joined the same Naval Reserve unit, worked at the same Government agency for a time and remained best friends our entire lives. Although time and distance changed our day-to-day relationship, it never changed the love we had for each other.

To me, Roy could best be described as “Irrepressible”. He was truly, “One of a kind”, a “Force of nature”. I knew him not only as a great friend, but as a great family man. His love for Trice, Jeffrey and “Miss Virginia Lee” was only exceeded by his love for his Gail, a love that I believe endured beyond the ending of their relationship. Testimony to our friendship, he honored me as Jeffrey’s “Godfather” a title I have not well lived up to.

My wife, Sloane, and I were deeply saddened by his passing, but we are comforted in the knowledge of a life well lived and that he is now at rest with the Lord. Our hearts go out to the extended Gravatte family, and while his image fades, his memory lingers on. Rest in peace good friend.

Robert R. Kane - February 23 at 02:39 PM