



James Elmer Clark

April 28, 1939 - June 3, 2015

OBITUARY FOR James E. Clark

Lafayette - James E. Clark, age 76, passed away on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at Kindred Hospital at St. Clare's in Dover. Born in Paterson to the late Elmer and Margaret (Kuiken) Clark, he had lived in the Paterson area before moving to Sussex County in 1969. He served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam Era. Mr. Clark was a Production Scheduler for Okonite Cable Company in Paterson for his entire career. He was a member of the Ridgefield Park Masonic Lodge and enjoyed raising tropical fish, which was his lifetime hobby. Mr. Clark is survived by his wife of 47 years, Susan D. Clark; his daughter, Cathy Bruning and her husband Derek of Lafayette; his brother, Dr. Thomas Clark and his wife Marilyn of Cincinnati, Ohio; and his grandchildren, Cassady and James Bruning. Memorial services will be held at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at the Pinkel Funeral Home, 31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex. Friends may pay their respects to the family on Tuesday prior to the memorial service from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to the Lafayette Preservation Foundation P.O. Box 702, Lafayette, NJ 07848 or to the Lafayette Fire Dept., P.O. Box 164, Lafayette, NJ 07848. Online condolences may be offered to the family at www.pinkelfuneralhome.com

Events

JUN **Visitation** 02:00PM - 05:00PM

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Pinkel Funeral Home, Inc.

31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex, NJ, US, 07461

JUN **Service** 05:00PM

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Pinkel Funeral Home, Inc.

31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex, NJ, US, 07461

Comments



“ Dear Cathy, Derek, Cassady, and Jamie,
We were so sad to read about your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.
The Sciabicas

Doreen Sciabica - June 20, 2015 at 08:26 AM



“ Jimmy & I shared the same sense of humor and consequently we always had lots of laughs when we sat next to each other at a family dinner or event. I enjoyed his quick wit and sense of fun! He always gently teased my son (his nephew) about girls, and Brian got a real kick out of that...We will greatly miss Uncle Jimmy...

marilyn clark - June 11, 2015 at 07:28 AM



“ When Jim's grandchildren, Cassady and James, came on the scene he attended every celebration. He'd sit on the back porch and observe all the goings-on. In the summer he enjoyed taking his grandchildren on a cruise or a day trip to Wild West city or the Sussex County fair. Family dinners were always at his house. He had to pick personal gifts to give his grandkids at Christmas time. He kept an envelope of cash stuffed down the couch to hand out money on holidays and birthdays. He liked meal planning, shopping the circulars for sales, and after dinner dessert creations. He always appreciated a good meal, quick-witted joke, and conversation with people. There were times he scheduled the Sussex county shuttle to pick him up and he'd go to Newton for lunch and there he heard stories from the bus driver's life and others he met on the bus. He liked lunches at the Lafayette House and all the waitresses knew him. He spoke with his daughter every day on her way to work, finding out the day's plans, the grandkids sport results, and other favorite topics. Where I picture him now, he has a drink in one hand, a cigarette in the other, the weather is balmy, and there's laughter and conversation all around.

Cathy Bruning - June 08, 2015 at 09:58 AM



“ Born April 28, 1939 prematurely to Marge and Elmer Clark, James was so small, he was fed using an eyedropper. The doctors said he wouldn't make it but his strong heart would carry him through life.

James grew up in Paterson, NJ. He loved playing ball with the boys on the street and his cousin Bobby. He liked to pitch. James always had animals. The family pet was always a collie. As a child he brought animals home. Strays, wildlife, and raised fish with his many tanks he had set up in the cellar. He tried raising finches. He even fed ants to the grasshoppers.

It was 8 years later that his brother Tom arrived. He and his family liked summertime at the beach and Cousin Bobby would join them. Visiting Uncle Bill's farm in Oak Ridge where all the hunting dogs were, was something he looked forward to. Once Uncle Bill took them to the cockfights which became one of his favorite stories to share.

After graduating high school he worked for several years then joined the navy to serve as a yeoman, being stationed out of Washington D.C., Hawaii, and Japan. Some of his fondest experiences were during that time.

In 1966 he purchased his first and only new car, a 66 Mustang convertible, something he gave to his daughter Cathy on her 17th birthday.

His work career was spent at Okonite Cable Company in Paterson where he was a manager of scheduling. There were periods of time that he oversaw the work of the night crew at the plant, but he took classes at Fairleigh Dickerson University and moved into the office position.

Having a cousin in common when Susan VanBodegon's uncle married Jimmy's aunt, they knew of each other from a few family gatherings. There was a 6 year difference in age, so it wasn't until their aunt brought Susan to Sunday dinner at the Clark house that sparks flew. James was on a bowling league with his parents and Susan was occasionally asked to fill in for Jim's mom. 6 months later he married Susan in 1967, celebrated the arrival of a daughter Cathy in 1968, and moved to Lafayette in 1969 where he chose to raise his family and he has lived since. Jim and Susan were foster parents for many years. At 14 Ice Plant Road he planted his gardens on his half acre of property, one in the front and one in the back yard. Summers were spent picking green beans and winters eating all the frozen veggies. He raised rabbits and ducks, even pheasant and quail. The tropical fish tanks soon took over the dining room and back porch. His two week summer vacations always included dining out, day trips to the beach, a day at the race track, and riding the old wooden roller coaster at Bertrand Island with Cathy and her friends.

Watching an exciting boxing match was something he shared with his father, grandfather, and later his brother in law, Kenny. James enjoyed country music, Hank Williams being one of his favorites and he would play that album over and over. Other things he enjoyed included watching a ball game, gardening and deep sea fishing. One time he brought home 3 duck feed sacks full of mackerel and blue fish. The neighbors had to come help manage the catch. Blue fishing was an activity he was able to continue with his son-in-law's father, Dick. They'd head down to the shore early in the morning to get on the Jamaica for their day out on the fishing boat. He loved the warm weather, hated the cold. Watching CNN, CourtTV, and Business news was something you would catch him doing during the day. Going to the horse races was a trip he looked forward to each summer. It was important to find a paper with Zammarelli's picks, get there with plenty of time to look over the program, and

stay through the last race. This is something that his brother Tom and sister-in-law Marilyn can vouch for as I am sure they will never forget the trifecta he would have picked.

Cathy Bruning - June 08, 2015 at 09:57 AM



“ Tom & Marilyn Clark & Mary Brown purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of James Elmer Clark.



Tom & Marilyn Clark & Mary Brown - June 06, 2015 at 09:31 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Elmer Clark.



June 06, 2015 at 08:09 PM