



Clair Leroy Deemer

September 5, 1926 - June 26, 2014

CLAIR LEROY DEEMER, 87, of Nokesville, Virginia passed away Thursday, June 26, 2014 at Novant Prince William Medical Center.

He was born on September 5, 1926 in West Sunbury, Pennsylvania the son of the late Francis Lee and Sarah (McKissick) Deemer. He was a retired photographer for the US Government after retiring from the US Army after 20 years of service.

Survivors include his loving wife, Maryko Deemer; six children, Donald and wife Cynthia, Richard and wife Shari, John and wife Yvonne, Dorene, Marlene and husband Erik, James and wife Barbara; brother, Ralph Deemer; 13 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Services will be held at Nokesville Church of the Brethren, 13002 Fitzwater Drive, Nokesville, VA 20181 on Saturday, July 5, 2014 at 11:30 AM. Interment will be held at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.

In Lieu of flowers, our father always donated to, and believed in, the USO Organization. If you would like to donate in his memory/honor, please go to www.uso.org and donate. If you do donate please include a sentence stating that on the condolence page on www.piercefh.com site. The family would like to acknowledge your kind thoughts and love for our dad.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA 22211

<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/>

Tribute Wall

JT

“ *Sorry about your dad's passing, it was a beautiful service in his honor and well done by all who participated. You could see your dad was well loved by all. Our condolence to all the family. We will donate as requested to the USO. God bless,
Joe & Joanna Tropea*

Joseph Tropea - July 28, 2014 at 11:08 AM

“ *Friendship and Smiles at the Five and Dime*

It happened every year just after Thanksgiving. My dad, Big Red, began his preparations in earnest for his holiday gig as Santa. Get the “uniform” cleaned and pressed; have the wig and beard washed and fluffed. He took his job very seriously.

But nothing was more essential to spreading holiday cheer to kids and their parents than his trusty sidekick and best friend, Mr. Deemer.

The kids sat on Santa’s lap and rattled off wish lists and Mr. Deemer asked them to “say cheese” (and sometimes comforted the tearful ones to put them at ease ... a father and grandfather many times over, he was good at that) as he captured a moment in time for their parents’ photo books. Free of charge, of course.

He was a pro but that didn’t stop him from sitting with Dad at Ayers 5&10 as hundreds of kids filed through the line year after year, posing for their photos with Santa. Likely no one knew that this kind gentleman snapping photos spent his career capturing memories as a professional photographer.

But no matter, those two guys were partners, Santa and his sidekick, a very special elf, handing out smiles and tootsie pops for generations of kids at the neighborhood hardware store.

When Mr. Deemer had to retire from his holiday assignment to care for his loving wife, my dad was lost. I don’t think he ever enjoyed Christmas as much again without his buddy by his side.

Dad was blessed to have known Mr. Deemer for many years – he couldn’t have asked for a better friend. He’s been gone for ten years now and I’m sure he’s welcoming Mr. Deemer with a big smile and a pat on the back ...”Hey Hoss, what the heck took you so long?”

And they're already making their holiday plans.

*Patricia Sullivan
(and Pamela Sullivan Pond)
Big Red Sullivan's daughters*

patricia sullivan - July 06, 2014 at 03:12 PM

NE

“ *You are all in our hearts and in our prayers. Your Dad served his country with honor and it is such a great tribute to him to donate to the USO. We donated online. Love you all, Ken and Nena Marescalco*

Nena - July 03, 2014 at 06:06 PM

DM

“ *Our deepest sympathy to your family. May GOD grant you HIS special peace and love today and in the weeks ahead. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Don and Pat McDonough

We will make a contribution to the USO.

Don and Pat McDonough - July 03, 2014 at 10:47 AM

JA

“ *From Jason, Carrie, and all of of us here in Loan Accouting, we send our sincere sympathy to the Deemer family. We have donated to the USO on behalf of Mr. Deemer.*

jaquie - July 03, 2014 at 09:51 AM

MI

“ Dorene, our deepest sympathy to you and your family. A donation was made to the USO Organization in honor of your Dad. Warmly, Brian, Debbie, Frannie, Lori, Michele, Neil

Michele - July 03, 2014 at 09:18 AM

RR

“ Marlene, my thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family during this difficult time. May the special memories of the times you shared with your father give you peace and comfort. It was an honor to donate to the USO organization in memory of him.

Robert Ratchford - July 02, 2014 at 09:44 PM

VM

“ Our deepest sympathy from the Orrie Ward family. You are all in our prayers. We had always enjoyed visiting with Uncle Clair and will miss him greatly.

Virginia Ward McGee - July 02, 2014 at 05:10 PM

GH

“ Glad to hear that Mr. Deemer was a frequent supporter of the USO. It was a pleasure to honor his memory with a donation to such a worthy organization. Gregg & Kelly Hoffmaster

Gregg Hoffmaster - July 02, 2014 at 09:22 AM

BL

“ Deepest condolences to my wonderful colleague, Dorene. Know that I'm thinking of you and keeping you in my prayers.

Beth Lawler - June 30, 2014 at 08:30 AM

LS

“ *The Phyllis (Deemer) Sybert family sends our deepest sympathy to the family of beloved Uncle Clair...so very very sorry for your loss!*

Lori (Sybert) Stephenson - June 29, 2014 at 11:47 AM

KN

“ *To Dear Auntie Marichan and Deemer Cousins - My deepest condolences at this very sad time. Uncle Clair touched so many lives and had a way of bringing cheer to even those of us who live far away. I, and my family, looked forward to his "birthday" telephone calls. I will miss those conversations.*

I pray that your memories and love for each other will help soften your loss.

Much love, Karen

Karen Newquist - June 29, 2014 at 09:17 AM



“ *Eric McKenney lit a candle in memory of Clair Leroy Deemer*



Eric McKenney - June 28, 2014 at 10:33 PM

JE

“ *Growing up with Dorene as a best friend I spent alot of time at the Deemer house. Mr Deemer always set a wonderful example of the kind of person I wanted to be and set a great work ethic. I have so many memories of sitting and talking with him. It didn't matter what subject it was he would always be there.*

Jean - June 27, 2014 at 03:18 PM

OC

“ All of us at One on One Care extend our sympathies to your family on the loss of Clair. We all remember him as kind, caring and a loving husband to Maryko. We have sent a donation to the USO in his memory.

Joan, Stacie, Natalie and Christa

One on One Care - June 27, 2014 at 01:19 PM

TM

“ Please except my sincere condolences for your loss o your loved one. This is one o the most dificult things we must face in this life. The bible assures us at Psalms 34:18 that is near to those Broken in Heart. He also Promises that we will be able to be reunited with our loved ones again. John 5:28&29 Tell off a wonderful hope. Just think one day we will never have to lose our loved ones.

Teri Morgan - June 26, 2014 at 09:38 PM

SS

“ 15 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Susan M. Shinagawa - June 26, 2014 at 06:43 PM

FO

No words can describe how my family feels about your loss. We are stunned, hurting and don't understand. Mr Deemer was a good man, very humble, loving, caring, very current and always reminding me of birthdays of my family members. He was loved by my husband (Nicholas) myself, (Fortuna) my daughters Vanessa and Anastasia. Don't even know how to tell my 5 and 3 year olds that we are not going to visit Mr. Deemer this summer because they are really looking forward to visit him. He was the first person to teach me how to make American food. One thing we had in common is we both love pictures. We take comfort in the word of the Lord and believe that he is in a better place. To the Deemer family, we are so sorry for your loss and you are in our prayers.

Fortuna - July 02, 2014 at 10:19 PM