



Jerry Emerson Sparks

April 3, 1937 - February 23, 2019

Retired USAF Lt. Col. Jerry Sparks of Flower Mound, Texas, sadly passed away on the evening of February 23rd 2019. He was 81 years old – but to his family, friends, and to all those that met and knew him he was perpetually young at heart.

Biographical Sketch

Jerry was born on April 3rd 1937 in Twila, Kentucky to Barton and Reba Sparks (nee Saylor). His early life was characterized by moving around frequently as his father was in the Navy – and this found them living in places as far flung as Guam, Panama, and at various Naval bases around the US. After attending UC Berkley he made the decision to join the service himself and became a pilot in the US Air Force. While finishing up pilot training in Enid, Oklahoma he met the love of his life, Joan (nee Marler), and they married on May 28th 1960. During their 58 years of marriage, they had four children and they themselves moved an additional ten times – mostly around the US but also for a few years to the Netherlands. He embraced the local culture and cuisine wherever he lived, and collected friends along the way, in both high and humble places. In his eyes, they were all measured the same. Upon retiring from the Air Force, they moved to Atlanta, Georgia where Jerry worked for 13 years for the Home Depot, and in 2007 they moved to Flower Mound.

Family

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, and tragically by his beautiful daughter, Susan, at the young age of 28. He is survived by his wife, Joan Sparks, daughter Jenny, and sons Tim and Bob. He leaves to this world 14 beautiful grandchildren (Chris, Nick, Emily, Grant, Jack, Anna, Elizabeth, Jake, Katherine, Mark, Charlie, Lucy, Theo, Judson) and one great-grandson, Christopher, Jr. He is also survived by his sister, Sandee Waxman, and brothers, Bill and Bart Sparks.

Jerry was a loving husband, an incredible father, a doting grandfather, a caring brother, a devoted son, and a friend to all. He was a man whose positive outlook and friendly demeanor made him one of those people that everyone was genuinely happy to know. He had a great sense of humor and an unparalleled knack for remembering jokes for any occasion. Jerry was a perennial learner of all things, with an insatiable desire for knowledge. He was known to many as a birdwatcher, woodworker and handyman, painter

and illustrator, fisherman, cook, driving instructor, ukulele player, and Scout leader. He is also remembered for the joy he sparked in many children as a professional Santa Claus for eight years.

The legacy he leaves is one of love, humor, and kindness. He will be forever missed by his family and friends, and we will all do our best to honor his legacy and uphold the high standards which he exemplified in so many ways.

Special Messages

Supporting veterans was near and dear to Jerry's heart. If you wish not to send flowers to Jerry's funeral you may consider a donation to Wreaths Across America.

<https://donate.wreathscrossamerica.org/?pageId=17167&relatedIds=20315>

Cemetery

DFW National Cemetery
2000 Mountain Creek Parkway
Dallas, TX, 75211

Events

FEB **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

27

Flower Mound Family Funeral Home
3550 Firewheel Drive, Flower Mound, TX, US,
75028

FEB **Funeral Service** 09:00AM - 10:00AM

28

The Episcopal Church of the Annunciation
602 N. Old Orchard Ln., Lewisville, TX, US, 75077

Comments



“ Joan, Tim, Jenny, Bob and family- we were so sad to hear about your precious husband's, father's/grandfather's passing. He truly was a special person who radiated love for others. As a teenager, he is one of the few adults who made an impression on me. I think it was the twinkle in his eye...I can only imagine the love and joy he brought to so many children serving as Santa for 8 years...I told my Dad and Mom he had to be the "Perfect" Santa!!! When my Dad called me with the sad news of Jerry's passing, he said "Deb...aside from our family, Jerry Sparks was my best friend." May God bring you peace and comfort during this time to know how fond our family was of Jerry as I am sure so many were. We are forever grateful for the opportunity to cross paths with such a wonderful man.

With our deepest sympathies,

Debbie (Karre) Mathews and Bob, Janice, Raymond and Howard Karre



Debbie Mathews - February 27, 2019 at 11:48 AM