



Harry Cleveland Groves

December 23, 1940 - March 15, 2019

Harry Cleveland Groves, age 78 of La Plata, Maryland, died on March 15, 2019 at the Charles County Hospice House in Waldorf, Maryland.

Harry was a United States Navy Veteran and was a General Foreman for 21 years at the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington, DC where he was a member of FONZ (Friends of the National Zoo). He was a member of the American Legion Post 82 and Free Masons. He also enjoyed spending time outdoors and riding his bike. He loved traveling in his RV and visited all 50 states. He liked to socialize with his family and friends and enjoyed going out to eat – one of his favorites during the summer was Maryland crabs. He dearly loved being with his grandchildren, Kayla, Justin, and Jack.

He was the son of Walter M. Groves and Dora K. Howard. In addition to his parents, he was also predeceased by his step-father, Selby L. Howard.

He is survived by his daughter, Kelly Ryan and husband Jim; his sister, Jacqueline Gerardi; his granddaughter, Kayla Baker and husband Easton; his grandsons, Justin and Jack Ryan; and other loving family.

Friends received on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 from 3PM until time of Funeral Service at 5PM at Raymond Funeral Service Chapel, 5635 Washington Avenue, La Plata, Maryland 20646. Interment will be private.

Memorial contributions in Harry's name are asked to FONZ, 3001 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008.

Previous Events

Friends Received

MAR 26. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Raymond Funeral Chapel
5635 Washington Ave.
La Plata, MD
business.office@raymondfuneral.com
<http://www.raymondfuneralservice.com>

Service

MAR 26. 5:00 PM (ET)

Raymond Funeral Chapel
5635 Washington Ave.
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Tribute Wall



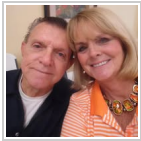
“ *Harry Cleveland Groves*

October 08, 2023 at 10:45 PM



“ *Harry Cleveland Groves*

October 04, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ *A person goes through life with only a few close friends. Harry and I were close friends throughout our adult lives. I can only say that Harry was my one true friend. We have been friends from the time we graduated from high school and will always be close friends. I have many memories of the times that we spent together and I will always remember them Harry Groves has always been my best friend and I will miss him.*

Jay Kranke

Jay Kranke - March 31, 2019 at 08:11 PM



“ *Harry had an undeniable presence. He filled a room with infectious, booming laughter and sharp wit. I'll miss his colorful stories and the way he made me feel seen and appreciated no matter the circumstance. He fiercely loved his family and I'll always be grateful for the jokes, thoughtful conversations, and tales from his travels.*

Thank you for teaching me to see beyond my own perspective and appreciate what's around me. I'll miss you, Bubba. With much love.

Claire Babilonia - March 26, 2019 at 05:02 PM

JS

“ I haven't seen Harry since the days at Lackey High School, but I have fond memories of him. I liked him and hope he considered me a friend. *Jim Story, Class of '60.*

Jim Story - March 26, 2019 at 11:19 AM

YF

“ Your PMA 201 FMS BFM and FMS Friends purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Harry Cleveland Groves.



Your PMA 201 FMS BFM and FMS Friends - March 25, 2019 at 04:16 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Harry Cleveland Groves.



March 25, 2019 at 02:50 PM

JG

“ *My Brother, My Friend. Harry had a couple of nicknames: “Bubba” and “Baby Harry” (affectionately given to him by our Mom). One look from Harry and you knew how he felt about a situation. He was honest and straightforward. His devotion and loyalty to family and friends was unquestionable. He made me laugh with his facial expressions and that imposing “grin”. We liked to critique tennis matches and Nationals baseball games and, of course, there were a few colorful comments. My heart is aching; I will miss him terribly. I am so very proud and thankful Harry was my brother. He will live in my heart and soul. His loving sister, Jacki*

Jacqueline Gerardi - March 25, 2019 at 07:52 AM

KB

“ *So sorry to hear of Harry's passing. I have wonderful memories of our years at Lackey and knowing Harry. He was one cool guy! Loved his family too. Kitty*



Katharine Beveridge - March 24, 2019 at 02:50 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Harry Cleveland Groves.*



March 24, 2019 at 09:55 AM



“ *Reflections of Glory Wreath was purchased for the family of Harry Cleveland Groves.*



March 23, 2019 at 11:01 PM



“ *Majestic Heart was purchased for the family of Harry Cleveland Groves.*



March 23, 2019 at 10:47 PM



“ *Harry was my great uncle and one of the most inspirational people I've met. When reflecting on my memories with him there isn't a single time that I wasn't smiling or laughing with him. Harry made sure to always try and make me feel comfortable and was always interested in what I had to say. I don't think I've ever met anyone like him, and I doubt I ever will. I'll miss him talking about those "Golden Years". I love you Harry and I'll see you later.*

Andrew Babilonia

Andrew J Babilonia - March 23, 2019 at 05:09 PM

CB

“ Uncle Harry was a great man with a big heart! He was a strong supportive presence, generous, caring and always fun-loving! He shared his love and support by immersing himself in my life and my children’s lives, happily sharing holidays with us, cheering my children on at soccer matches, baseball games, dance performances, and graduation ceremonies throughout the years. I cherish all those memories, I celebrate his life and mourn his passing. My heartfelt sympathy to Kelly, Jim, Kayla, Justin and Jack. Love Chris



Chris Babilonia - March 22, 2019 at 07:53 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Harry Cleveland Groves.



March 22, 2019 at 05:50 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Harry Cleveland Groves.



March 22, 2019 at 09:10 AM

 Julie Hammond

“ So sorry for your loss. Rest in peace Harry.

Julie Hammonds - March 20, 2019 at 09:54 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Harry Cleveland Groves.*



March 20, 2019 at 02:09 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Harry Cleveland Groves.*



March 19, 2019 at 09:22 PM



“ *Once back in the seventies I found myself without transportation and away to get to work. With no intention of asking Harry took my hand and placed in them the keys to his cherished possession, the keys to the famous “Siver Hawk” Studebaker. How do you begin to thank a man for that kindness? AS I walked away he called my name Donnie, and with a tilt of his head and that Harry stare says “DON’T F%%# IT UP”. Prayed twice a day, all the way to work and all the way home. That was my friend H. Groves. RIP!*

Donnie Hopkins - March 19, 2019 at 09:06 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Harry Cleveland Groves.*



March 19, 2019 at 09:02 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Harry Cleveland Groves.* ”



March 19, 2019 at 05:01 PM