



Clyde L. Sheffield

October 13, 1940 - March 23, 2012

Clyde "Bear" Sheffield was bigger than life, and took his bear hugs and huge smile everywhere he went. He was a firefighter, active in his church & community, but his family was always an important focus in his life.

Sheffield, 71, died March 23, at the VA Community Living Center, Orlando after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

"Bear" was the name given by his firefighting buddies, early in his career. He was a big guy, but those close to him knew he was a teddy bear. He was often known to grab a "bear nap", between runs at the station, which his buddies referred to as hibernating. Clyde started his firefighting career in the USAF, went to The City of Winter Park, then to Kennedy Space Center, where he spent 33 yrs. It was an exciting era, and as the Space Center grew up around him, he was involved in the Apollo and Shuttle programs, until in his retirement in '98. He was part of the Kennedy Astronaut Rescue Team, and the overseas emergency rescue in Africa. He loved traveling, and often combined his tour of duty, with an after-trip, to sites in Europe and Africa. His wife of 50 years, Evelyn "Cookie", enjoyed the opportunity also, waiting for him in Paris for a week once, after continual shuttle holds, and joining him in Morocco another time.

Clyde was actively involved in his church, at the First Baptist of Longwood. He

was busy in the children's programs, and the bus ministry. He helped grow the activities ministry, and loved working with neighborhood kids who wandered into the church gym. Even after his diagnosis with Alzheimer's, he led devotions at a nearby nursing home, and directed games for children's AWANA. The Lord & his church was his joy.

Clyde chose years ago to donate his brain to The State of Florida Brain Bank for Alzheimer's Research. He thought it was "pretty cool" that his brain would be studied by major universities & teaching hospitals, and perhaps help with the critical task of finding a cure for Alzheimer's.

A faithful Gator Fan, Clyde & his buddies painted his old pick-up truck in Gator colors, and he was proud, win or lose, to drive around town, and flash the orange & blue.

Clyde loved most of all spending time with his family in all their activities. He was preceded in death by his parents, Noel & Mattie, and his daughter, Michelle. In addition to his wife, he is survived by son Marc Sheffield; daughters Noelle Sheffield & Naomi Suminski; sons-in-law, Jerry Brenner & Len Suminski; brother Ken Sheffield; stepmom, Kathy Sheffield & five grandchildren. .

A memorial service will be held on Mon. April 2nd, at First Baptist Church, 891 State Road 434 East, Longwood, FL 32750. Visitation with the family is at 10:30 am, with the memorial service at 11am. Interment will follow on Tues, April 3rd, at 10:30am, at the Florida National Ceremony, in Bushnell.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made, in honor of Clyde Sheffield, to Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Center, 1506 Lake Highland Dr., Orlando, 32803, or Brain Fitness Club, c/o Peggy Bargmann, First United Methodist Church, 125 N. Interlachen Ave., Winter Park, FL 32789.

Arrangements are entrusted to DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory 9001 N.
Orlando Avenue, Maitland, Florida 32751, 407-695-CARE (2273).

GO GATORS!

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 2. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Longwood
891 SR 434 East
Longwood, FL 32750

Memorial Service

APR 2. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Longwood
891 SR 434 East
Longwood, FL 32750

Tribute Wall

EL

“ Dear Cookie and Family, I was terribly saddened to hear of Clyde's passing. I have so many great memories of him and your family. Growing up with Marc, Naomi and Noel was a pleasure. My Mom and I send a lot of love and prayers your way, and I know I speak for Jimmy Williamson (my cousin) as well. Love and Sympathy, Elise Faulk & Elaine

Elaine Gardner- Lott - March 26, 2012 at 02:15 PM

NP

Cookie, my brother, Phil, sent me word about Clyde's death. I'm so sorry that my first contact with you in years has to be the result of your loss. I remember when the two of you were dating. I'd love to hear from you when life calms down.
Nancy Werking Poling

Nancy Werking Poling - April 05, 2012 at 06:43 PM

PT

“ Dear Cookie and Family, Sorry to hear of Clyde's passing. We have many fond memories of our visits to Florida enjoying your hospitality and Clyde's great lite hearted chuckle. He will surely be missed by all of us up North. Sending our Love and deep sympathy. Cousin Pat, Susan Toto and Family.

Patrick Toto - March 24, 2012 at 09:21 PM

KW

“ *Cookie and family,
I am proud to have known Bear during my time at the Space Center.
It has been wonderful to be able to see him for as long as possible
at the annual picnics. You all have been through a great challenges
these past years but Bear is now in "Gator Heaven".
Love to you,
Kathy Weaver*

Kathy Weaver - March 24, 2012 at 09:36 AM

BK

Cookie,

*We were saddened to learn of Bear's transition from this earthly world
and know he will be missed. It was a pleasure to have known and
worked with him at the space center. I will always remember the big
grin on his face as he and George sat in the old fire engine in my
garage a few years back. Now he is with his beautiful fire safety
specialist in heaven.*

Bill & Carole Killen

Bill Killen - March 30, 2012 at 11:33 PM