



Laverne Eugene "Liver" Cleland

October 23, 1925 - December 11, 2018

Laverne Eugene Cleland "Liver", age 93 of Scottsdale, Arizona, former native and longtime resident of the Dundee-Carpentersville, passed away on December 11th, 2018 at 7:45 AM. "Liver", as he was known to many of his close friends, truly "one-of-a-kind", was born on October 23th, 1925 in Huntley, Illinois, and was the son of the late John and Henrietta (Kania) Cleland. He attended Dundee Community High School and St. Edwards High School, where he received a Letter Award in basketball 1941-1942 season. Laverne left St. Edwards High School in December 1943 when his mother signed for his underage enlistment into the United States Navy. He completed his GED after serving in W.W. II. He served during W.W. II until his Honorable discharge on May 9th, 1946. He served his years in W.W. II as a Gunner's Mate 2nd Class. He was decorated for self-loading his gun, and shooting down a Japanese Kamikaze Zero, after his assigned loader jumped overboard. He served on the USS LCS (L) 56 and he was involved in numerous invasions in the South Pacific including providing firepower from his single 20 mm gun and rocket launchers marines at Iwo Jima. Laverne witnessed the raising of the first U.S. flag on Mt. Suribachi, after providing walkie talkie directed support fire as they advanced the west side. Laverne received the Victory Medal, Commendation Ribbon, Asiatic Pacific Area Campaign Medal, American Area Campaign Medal and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon for his service. After his honorable discharge he worked for several years at a service station in West Dundee, located on the northwest corner of S. 2nd St. and W. Main St. across from the Rendezvous which later became the "Town Pump" later operated by his late brother in law Melvin Batt and sister Esther Batt.

Laverne and Jean Marie Buhrow were married at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in West Dundee, IL on June 2nd, 1951. Jean and Laverne were married 45 years and lived most of those years in the two-story arts and crafts red brick home at Washington St. and Maple Ave. in old Carpentersville, IL., before moving to South Carolina to be with Jean's mother Alice Buhrow.

In the early years of his marriage to Jean they owned the small neighborhood grocery store in old Carpentersville on Grove St. from 1952-1954. From 1954 to 1976 he operated the "Pure Oil" service station, in West Dundee, (across from the Dairy Queen) with partner Robert Bau. In the early 1960's when the Pure Oil service station was demolished and

replaced with a new Union 76 Station, a famous friend of his “Mr. Cub” Ernie Banks attended the grand opening and signed autographs for many of the community children. In 1976 he accepted a position with the City of Elgin as Director of their bus and vehicle maintenance garages and he also worked for the State of Illinois Highways Maintenance Department before retiring. Throughout his years, Laverne was also active in the community. He was a volunteer on the East Dundee Fire Department and serve for eighteen years on the Dundee Township Park District Board.

Survivors include his sons; Randy, Daniel and David, his grandchildren, Sean, James, Megan (Cleland) McCabe and Andrew and Matthew, Marcie and Mitch and five great grandchildren. Other survivors include his sister, Doris (Cleland) Noah. Laverne was preceded in death by his beloved wife Jean, his sisters; Esther (Cleland) Batt, Margaret (Cleland) Williamson and his grandson Joseph Cleland.

Laverne and Jean Cleland’s Internment will be at the Dundee Township East Cemetery, East Dundee, IL. in May. More information will be available from the Miller Funeral Home in West Dundee. Memorials can be made to Hospice of the Valley, 9808 N 95th St, Scottsdale, AZ 85258, as they provided Laverne with such comfort and care in his final months.

Cemetery

Dundee Township East Cemetery

420 Dundee Avenue Intersection of Routes 25 & 72
East Dundee, IL, 60118

Comments



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Miller Funeral Home - May 17 at 04:35 PM



“ Well old Carpentersville has lost another true champion. Randy, Dan and Dave - your dad and mom were wonderful people and almost like second parents to me. I have so many fond memories of the fun we had. Just to name a few; the forts, the snow slide, and the exploding tennis balls are priceless memories. I am sure that Liver, Jean, Joe and Jackie are having one hell of a party up in heaven. My deepest sympathies to you and I will keep you in my prayers. Joe Falese

Falese - April 01 at 04:06 PM



“ One memory was coming to your home and your dad always entertained us kids with his antics, one that sticks is his M80s in the pipe blowing the tennis ball sky high. Aunt Jean yelling "Liver" LOL, good stuff. Also he would stop and see my grandmother Kelley to check on her. There are many more than this, RIP uncle.

Robert Buhrow - March 15 at 10:04 PM



“ Hello Coach Buhrow!

Brett Muscat - April 15 at 04:54 AM



“ Chuck Peter lit a candle in memory of Laverne Eugene "Liver" Cleland



Chuck Peter - March 14 at 11:10 PM