



Gray, Donald Valentino

FEB 14, 1928 - DEC 24, 2024



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Donald V. Gray, passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home on Christmas Eve, at the age of 96.

Born in St. Petersburg on Valentine's Day 1928, he was raised in Gulfport, FL where he spent his youth boating, fishing and camping. At 17 years old, he joined the Navy to serve in WWII on a Submarine Chaser in the Pacific Ocean. Following his enlistment, he returned home to begin college. Soon after, his adventurous spirit led him on a different path seeking out native cultures on the Amazon River, living and working on fishing boats from the Everglades to Cedar Key, and traveling west to prospect for uranium. When the Korean Conflict began, he quickly reenlisted and served for another 4 years.

Don began working at the General Electric Largo plant in 1957 as a Health Physics Inspector, then later as a specialist for environmental protection as a Nuclear Health Technician, retiring in 1991. In 1957 he also met and married the love of his life, Joanie. Together they raised three children in Hudson, FL, surrounding their family with nature and animals while filling them with the same passion for outdoor adventures.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard C. Gray and Mary Lou Faurot Gray, his sister, Julia Jean Gray Romine and his beloved wife, Joan M. Kearney Gray. He is survived by his daughter Marianne Gray of Clermont, son James (Darlene) Gray of Spring Hill, daughter Elizabeth 'Betsy' (Rob) Bains of Clermont, six grandchildren, six great grandchildren and nieces & nephews.

Don and Joan's interment will be at the National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Donald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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