



Roger Stanley Dowiat

October 30, 1942 - December 23, 2009

Roger Stanley Dowiat, age 67, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday after spending a wonderful day with family and friends. Roger grew up in Mentone, attending Moon Lake Elementary and Valley Head High School – there he met a cute younger student, Judy Kay Young, the sister of his best buddy. He liked squirrel and deer hunting with a favorite uncle, Emerson. He liked reading the signs of nature and signs of the sky at night. He and Judy's brother enlisted in the Navy together when Roger was just 17 years old. He saw Italy and Greece in his tour of the Mediterranean, saying years later he couldn't believe his foolish young self had seen the world in three years but never taken a single photo. His ship was sent to the Cuban Missile Crisis, with Roger getting a first-hand sight of the war ships loaded with Russian missiles, dangerously close to America. Returning home from service, he married Judy and had two children. Roger became a career machinist, working in the Fort Payne area until retirement from the Sara Lee Bakery in 2002. Roger was a life-long learner. His lunch breaks at blue-collar jobs would be spent hunched over a correspondence course learning Hebrew, a textbook on geology, or the latest issue of "Sky and Telescope" magazine. Roger loved retirement because it allowed him the proper amount of time for all his many hobbies – a life-long fascination with trains, collecting fossils (petrified dinosaur eggs, prehistoric shark teeth, and trilobites, which were treasures gathered mostly through activity in the Fort Payne Gem and Mineral Club) and staying up all night with his telescope and a classical radio station to study the heavens. In retirement

he had time to join the Atlanta Astronomy Club and host “star parties” in Mentone on the old family land. Like-minded amateur astronomers would arrive from all over the region with tents and telescopes and compare knowledge of Jupiter, Mars, and the Milky Way. And while a quick exit from this world would have been his preference, he would have chosen to be taken out by a renegade meteor. Wife Judy’s first and enduring impression of Roger was his pretty brown eyes, with a sparkle of mischief that lasted across the years. On Christmas morning, Judy was able to open the last gift and sweet card from Roger, hidden by him until Christmas. Son Stan loved spending time out on the land with his father, where they would work cutting trails, sharing theories on science and current events – Dad was curious about every subject. Daughter Sharon loved going to bookstores with her dad, both excited by the brand new ideas and revelations hidden inside, waiting to be found. She treasures memories from a trip together to the Grand Canyon and Monument Valley, years afterward still trying to comprehend the magnitude, time and scale of creating such a place. He was one of a kind, and is going to be deeply missed. Roger is survived by his wife of 45 years Judy Young Dowiat, mother Eugenia Dowiat, sister Gwen Erikson, son Stan Dowiat, daughter Sharon Dovie and son-in-law Chris Russell, grandchildren Jade and Kirby Dowiat, step grand-children Jackson and Nathan Russell, and grand-nephew Bleu Stone. In lieu of flowers, friends can make donations to the Moon Lake Community Library in Mentone... or simply spend a few moments in a thoughtful gaze at the nighttime sky.

Tribute Wall



“ *Roger Stanley Dowiat*

January 12, 2023 at 10:45 AM



“ *We are truly sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Brian & Amy Moon*

Brian Moon - December 31, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Judy, Sharon & Stan, we were so sorry to hear about Roger. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers. We didn't know about it until after the service or we certainly would have been there. May you be strengthened and comforted by your faith during this difficult time. Please call on us if there is anything we can do for you.*

Rex and Jane Barnes - December 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Judy, I can't find the words to express our feelings of shock and sadness upon reading of Roger's passing. Remembering all of you in our prayers. May God's love and His wonderful promises give you comfort in the days ahead.*

Earl & Barbara Turner - December 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Stan we are so sorry about your dad. We always enjoyed him when he came down with you. You and your family are in our prayers.*

Frances Howard - December 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ Roger was a very special Father-in-law to me for many years and a wonderful grandfather to my girls. He was so kind and warm to me and I will always cherish my memories of him. My prayers are with you all. Love, Kelley

Kelley - December 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LI

“ Judy, Stan, Sharon, Jade & Kirby, I am so sorry for the untimely death of Papaw Roger. He was a special person and I know you loved him dearly. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time and always. Love, Linda

Linda Ingle - December 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Stan so sorry to hear of your Father's passing. We will have you and your family in our prayer's.

Danny & Gale Mitchell - December 25, 2009 at 12:00 AM