



Claud "Eddie" Hicks

January 24, 1942 - April 20, 2024

Mr. Claud E. Hicks (Eddie), 82, passed away Saturday, April 20, 2024, in Destin, Florida. He was born on January 24, 1942, in Pikeville, Kentucky, to Central and Ermal Hicks. He will be missed by all of those who knew and loved him.

Eddie served in the United States Air Force for 20 years. While in the military, he was stationed in Vietnam, Korea, Germany, North Dakota, and Florida. He retired at Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach. In 1962, Eddie married his sweetie, Laina, and in May of 1963, they had a daughter, Kimberly.

Eddie was a sports fanatic – particularly college sports. His favorite teams included the West Virginia Mountaineers, Kentucky Wildcats, and FSU. He was also a hockey enthusiast and huge Tampa Bay Lightning fan. He loved reading, the beach, and music from the 50s, 60s, and 70s. Eddie had an undeniable sense of humor, and we cherish each inside joke, nickname, and laugh he has left behind.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Central and Ermal Hicks; his brother, Andrew Hicks; and his sisters, Anna Lucille McKenzie, Christine Dickerson, Peggy "Sue" Jarrell, and Sandra Vint.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Laina Hicks; his daughter, Kimberly

Ross; his grandson, Kory Ross (Nicole); and many other family members and friends.

We ask that you share your favorite memory of Eddie with his family to help keep his spirit alive.

“This is particularly to my grandson, Kory Ross. Be strong. I know you can handle it.” – Poppie

“Remember me with laughter for that’s the way I remember you all. If you remember me with tears, then don’t remember me at all. I will see everybody on the other side.”

Tribute Wall

JU

“ I’m sorry I didn’t know about this until early this morning. Our girls, Kim and Cathy grew up together at Oakland Terrace School in Panama City. As a single mother, Laina and Eddie were always there for me. Lost touch with them when I moved to Tampa in the early 80’s. Eddie had a personality like no other. He always saw the brite side of everything and together they formed a tight unit that was unbreakable. I know he will be missed by many.

Janene Ulmer, Panama City Beach, FI

Janene Ulmer - December 19, 2024 at 07:37 AM

IP

“ I grew up with and went to Van High School with Claud always a pleasant guy and well liked.RIP my friend

Ivan Puckett - July 12, 2024 at 06:32 PM

BM

“ We graduated together from Van High School. I loved his laugh, and remember him fondly. We attended some class reunions together throughout the years. It sounds like he was a wonderful family man. Please accept my deepest condolences for your loss. Brenda Epling Castle McCloud

Brenda McCloud - July 02, 2024 at 04:43 PM

JH

“ My twin brother Terry and I will terribly miss our older brother Eddie. The Hicks family called him Claud but he was Eddie to most everyone else. He is the reason I came to Florida and started my own family here. I was lucky enough to have ties in both Florida and Kentucky. We had our love of sports in common especially the finals of March Madness. He was a friend as well as a big brother. We too enjoyed the benefits of sharing great meals, especially breakfasts with Eddie and Laina.

We went on several trips together including Kentucky, Epcot and The Worlds Fair in Knoxville. His favorite spots were probably being home reading a book, watching TV or at the beach.

I looked up to Eddie for his military career and envied his life after his service. It is is said that losing a sibling is missing the one person who you could truly be yourself with and a siblings love is unconditional. That is true about my big brother, Eddie.

Rest in peace, my brother. Your memories will stay fresh in my mind until my last breath. The world won't be the same without you. You will always live in our hearts!

Jerry Hicks

Jerry Hicks - April 30, 2024 at 05:55 PM

JM

I went to school with Claud and saw him occassionally at class reunion and Coal Camp reunion. I was in the Airforce also and upon my arrival in Saigon Vietnam I went to midnight chow I went through the chow line to get something to eat and when I turned around to find somewhere to sit there he was sitting right in front of me, I hadn't seen him since graduatio this was 1966. RIP my Brother in ARM'S.

James McClure - July 02, 2024 at 01:52 PM

CT

“ I will always remember Uncle Eddie from the good times our family had together at the beach and in Florida. I'll remember his smile and his laugh. I'll remember his peanut butter balls, his dirt cake, how he always seemed to have some new and exciting edible creation. I'll remember how clean he kept things. I'll remember how much he cared for Kory. I will miss him.

Christopher Turner - April 27, 2024 at 12:23 AM

EG

“ I had the privilege of meeting Eddie only once while in Charlotte visiting Kim. He came to the house. His laughter and sense of humor I will always remember. You will be missed KIND SIR ! Sending love and prayers to the family.

eddie george - April 25, 2024 at 01:38 PM

JT

“ “Uncle Eddie” was an extremely giving and caring person, he was the same no matter what the circumstances were around him. He lived his life and spoke as if it were the late 60's and early 70's, with his favorite words being “Hey Man and Cool Dude. I remember several trips to Destin for vacation with my family and it was always like going to a 5 star resort, everything was taken care of. He prepared all of our meal's, “Eddie's Uber Service” to the beach and back, his awesome Peanut Butter pie and his light hearted laugh. He also gave us a personal guided tour of Elgin Air Force base in Ft Walton beach, it was awesome. I will miss him and look forward to seeing him again someday. Rest in Peace Uncle Eddie.

Jeff Turner - April 25, 2024 at 11:19 AM

RC

I graduated with Claude at Van High School, I thought he was so cute and he was popular with the girls, great personality, sending condolences and prayers to the family and friends 🤍

Ruby Roe ConleySmith - July 05, 2024 at 01:06 AM