



Mr. Jackie Lynn Clay

September 20, 1958 - February 12, 2020

Jackie Lynn Clay, was born on September 20, 1958 in Cabarrus county. He passed away on February 12th, 2020.

He is preceded in death by his parents KaDonald Clay, Grace Clay and his sister Barbara Burgess.

He leaves behind his wife and children, Pauline BK Clay, Joshua Clay, Angela Clay Helms and Jason Costa. His seven granddaughters and one grandson on the way. His brother and wife Donald Craven Clay and Tamara Gregory. His younger sister Tammy Clay.

Jackie Lynn Clay graduated from Monroe High School. From there he entered into the US Army. He found his "Government Issued Wife" Pauline in California. Together they traveled the world while serving our country. In Okinawa, Japan he earned INSCOM Okinawa's Commander Trophy. Years later when the Gulf war arrived he left his family to take part in the war. This is where he earned is Bronze Star. His wife Pauline BK Clay retired from the army at the rank of Sergeant 1st class. (SFC). Jackie Lynn Clay retired just passed 20 years of service at the rank of Master Sergeant (MSG).

Him and his family moved back to Monroe NC. To keep busy during retirement he started collecting farm animals and working on family tree projects. He also enjoyed creating military displays at Museum of the Waxhaws, Union County Public Library, Marshville Museum and Cultural Center , Warbirds Over Monroe Air Show and more. His favorite displays were focused on Camp Sutton NC and Pirate Day at Museum of the Waxhaws. He contributed multiple books from genealogy to local history. In 2016 he participated in creating a North Carolina PBS Special on WWII. His part was taped at Museum of the Waxhaws. It has been aired multiple times honoring veterans. He was consistently active He was very generous with his time and knowledge. He was always there to lend a hand. His Military, Technical, Genealogy and Historical expertise will be sorely missed, but he will never be forgotten.

We will have a gathering to visit with family friends on February 17, 2020 at 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm at.....

Blakely's Funeral & Cremation Service, LLC

714 E Franklin Street

Monroe, NC 28112

Tel: 704-635-7951 / 980-269-8772

Due to the holiday he will be honored and buried at a later time in Salisbury National Cemetery.

Please bring any photos / videos of him that you can share with us.

Thank you everyone for your love and support.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to: American Cancer Society /
Red Cross

Comments



“ I met Jack years ago at the Museum of the Waxhaws. I was impressed with his military collection, but also his wealth of knowledge. Over the years, he told me wonderful stories about his military service, military history, local history, and all manner of subjects. I have never met a person with as many adventures and misadventures as Jack Clay. Freezing and burning up in South Korea, haggling over a goat in Saudi Arabia, dealing with a lost convoy in Germany, and handling an angry buffalo in his backyard were just a few stories he told me. I will miss our conversations and trips to his favorite military antique store. My deepest condolences to his family.

Kenny Teeter - February 16 at 10:45 PM



“ The Mint Hill Historical Society is so sorry to hear Jack passed away. Like many other museums, we appreciated Jack's passion and willingness to share his knowledge of the military. For years he set up his wonderful displays of memorabilia at our Salute to Veterans event for school students. It was a favorite exhibit.

Our deep sympathy goes to Jack's family. May prayers strengthen you and memories comfort you.

Mint Hill Historical Society - February 15 at 08:18 PM



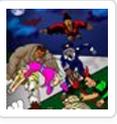
“ My condolences to Mr. Clay's family. I worked part time at the library in genealogy. Jack Clay was a wonderful patron who felt like part of the library. His knowledge and humor were a constant delight. He will always be remembered.

Maria Vicareo - February 15 at 06:42 PM



“ Ok, Jack, what can I say. The guy was a big brother to me. Jack helped me through so many days at the museum. He always was ready to give a helping hand to anybody. He truly cared about people, all people. Jack was my guide through all aspects of history , good or bad, and life in general. He always supported the museum volunteers, especially the young ones. He touched many lives. I will always miss him. My heart goes out to his wife, kids, grandchildren and all his many friends. Keep marching forward!

cathy wright - February 15 at 05:50 PM



“ Over the years my dad would take me exploring battlefields and antique stores. One year we went to Gettysburg a few times. After Looking through the antique shops we went to little and big round top. That weekend they had quite a few people dressed up in northern and southern civil war uniforms. Those people stayed in character.... :) We took a few pictures and then went on our way. At the time I thought it Odd that they were still in character even after the mock battles were finished. Years later I decided to take my dad to anime comic con. He had the same expression that I did from Gettysburg. He didn't understand why everyone was dressing up as cartoon characters at the anime comic con. He said the same phrase I said when we left Gettysburg..... Looking back. I realize we didn't really have to understand and enjoy each other's Hobbies. We enjoyed spending time with each other. That's all that matters..... Spending time with the ones that you love.... sharing and each others hobbies and interests. As time passes you learn to appreciate the moments that you spent with them.... and wish for more. -Angela Clay Helms



Angela Helms - February 15 at 03:27 PM



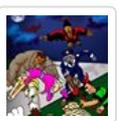
“ Jack always loved sharing that story of you and Gettysburg to reenactors!

cathy wright - February 15 at 05:28 PM



“ You should have seen his face when I took him to the anime comic con. A teenage boy walked by us and he was over 6 foot tall . He was wearing a black biker outfit with white bunny ears and a pink tutu. To complete the outfit had 3 inch heels black boots. It wasn't a character I have ever seen before. Dad just took one look and then decided to sit out side in the lobby. With the other parents..... Overall, it was highly entertaining day. ----- back to the Gettysburg reenactors. He liked them because they stayed in character as long as they were in uniform.

Angela - February 15 at 09:38 PM



“ Tomorrow will be Sunday..... Sunday lunch was the main family get together time. Almost as soon as we walked in my daughter Arianna would ask her Grandpa for her fruit plate and or personal pan pizza. While her Grandpa was making it Katherine would tug on him to get attention as well. Their grandma would distract the girls by singing or playing with them. Once the food was prepared he would turn on Cartoons on the TV in the living room. At some point in the day we would go outside and just watch the girls play on the back porch. Even on days where all he felt like doing was just relaxing in bed. He would work through his aches and pains and play with his granddaughters. He did everything he could to make his Granddaughter's smile. I miss my dad so much. - Angela Clay Helms



Angela Helms - February 15 at 02:01 PM



“ I am so sorry baby. He did love to talk about those beautiful grandchildren. He will be greatly missed.

cathy wright - February 15 at 05:26 PM



“ He did treasure his granddaughters. We miss him.....

Angela - February 15 at 09:39 PM



“ Jackie was my brother-in-law for 8 years one of the most kindest people I have had the pleasure of meeting, Dedicated to serving his country for our freedom forever grateful for his services. He was always willing to help where he could and was there for us when Donal G Clay was diagnosis with heart failure. Our Prayers go out to his wife and children and extended family members. Rest In Peace Jackie you will be greatly missed by many.

Linda Stickland - February 14 at 10:39 PM



“ I hardly know where to begin. But Jack was a true friend and there are not enough of those in anyone's life. He helped me tremendously over the years in the Dickerson Genealogy & Local History Room (and sometimes drove me crazy too!). He donated local history materials to the library that broadened and enhanced my knowledge as well as the patrons of the library -- in particular Camp Sutton and local Black History. But it was his friendship, his desire to help in any way that he could that really stood out. Even in our last phone conversation four days before his death he reminded me to call if I needed anything (we were having that little crazy snow shower and he knew how anxious I would become at the sign of potentially bad weather). That was Jack, always, always wanting to help. I shall miss him very much and I extend my very heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends.

Patricia Poland - February 14 at 07:31 PM