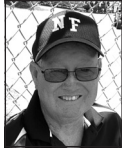


LEROY BLALOCK



Leroy Blalock, 75, of Callahan, entered his eternal resting place in the arms of his Savior January 12, 2024. He was surrounded by his dotting wife, June, and their two children Christy and Wayne. Leroy was a devoted, loving husband of 51 years to his wife Neva “June” (Hodges) and the best Daddy, Poppie, family and friend anyone could ask for. Leroy was



born May 20, 1948, to Charlie Ruff Blalock Sr. and Rena (Griffis) Blalock in Lawtey, Florida, but lived his entire life in Callahan. He was drafted into the United States Army and deployed to Vietnam from 1968-1970 with the 1st Battalion 92nd Artillery Regiment Brave Cannons, also known as the Red Devils. Leroy was heroically awarded the Army Commendation Medal with “V” Device for exceptional heroism during a heavy fire attack while in the Republic of Vietnam on May 13, 1969. He was also awarded the prestigious Purple Heart for being wounded in combat. Upon his return from Vietnam, Leroy continued his service with the US Army as a reservist until 1974. During this time, he met the love of his life, Neva “June” who he lovingly referred to as June Bug. They were married on December 15, 1972, in Kingsland, and settled in Callahan and raised their family. Leroy worked for many years as an automobile paint and body man for Water’s Paint and Body before retiring to his recliner. Paint and bodywork was a craft that he mastered, loved and continued to dabble in later in life. Leroy even worked with his son last year to smooth and paint his granddaughter’s first car.

Leroy loved Jesus Christ, old gospel, old western movies, square dancing exhibitions with his wife, deer hunting, running his deer dogs, fishing, baseball, softball, racing, the Florida Gators and spending time with his children, as well as his niece, Janice who lovingly referred to him simply as “Pest.” He was dedicated to his family and instilled morals, the love of the outdoors, and the value of hard work. Leroy was always “dressed to a T” and always on time, saying “If you aren’t 15 minutes early then you’re late.”

In later years, after being blessed with grandchildren, Leroy developed a love for girls’ fast pitch softball and devoted his time to coaching and watching his grandchildren play. He loved the game so much he trained and became a certified umpire with North Florida Umpires Association. Leroy proudly showcased his achievement as an umpire and his love of the game by wearing his favorite North Florida (“NF”) hat almost everywhere he went. Christy and Wayne both argue they were Leroy’s favorite child; however, it was very clear to those who knew Leroy, that his dog Tanner was indeed the favorite. Tanner will forever hold the record as the only “fur family” ever allowed to live inside the house.

Leroy was a faithful member of Camden Baptist Church in St. Marys. His pastor, Edward Dixon, was more than just “the Preacher,” he became a treasured best friend. Leroy spent many of his days working at the church and enjoyed fellowship with his church family. Leroy is preceded in death by his parents Charlie Ruff Blalock Sr. and Rena Griffis Blalock; as well as eight siblings, Richard, Charlie, Jr., Jake, Jimmy, David, Lorraine Males, Estelle Thomas and an angel baby Dale Blalock.

Leroy is survived by his wife June; children Christy (Eddie) Holton and Roy “Wayne” (Jamie) Blalock; six grandchildren Hailey (Macie) Ray, Anna Phillips (Travis Simmons), Chance Blalock, Ally Rice, Ava Blalock and April (Thomas) Collins; five great-grandchildren Braelynn, Landri, Kambree, Addison and Austin; sister Rosie (Ken) Morgan; baby brother Franklin “Beatle” Blalock; and numerous extended family members and friends; and nephew George James and Janice Griffis.

Pallbearers will be Wayne Blalock, Chance Blalock, George James, Carl Morris, Jeff Back and Jason Murphy.

The family will receive friends Thursday, January 18 from 5 - 7 p.m. at Camden Baptist Church, 725 Douglas Drive, St. Marys. A celebration of Leroy’s life will be held Friday, January 19 at 1 p.m. at Nassau Funeral Home with Pastor Edward Dixon officiating. Interment will follow at Jones Cemetery, Callahan, where military honors will be rendered.

Arrangements by Nassau Funeral Home, Callahan, 904-879-1770.

Visit www.nassaufh.com to sign the family’s guest book.