

4.1 Papa and Gram by Philip and Rob



AC Ben

Leatherwood Dahlias

Maggie Valley/Waynesville, North Carolina

1 John 4: 10

This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Romans 10: 9

If you declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe He was raised from the dead, you will be saved.

Papa and Gram

by Philip S. Rapalje

May 10, 1998

NOTE: This poem was written by Philip and given to his own mother on the first Mother's Day after his Gram went home to be with the Lord. You may have seen this story in the Eaton Family Cookbook.

Papa taught me how to shoot a gun,
he taught me how to fish.
I have many fond memories with him
watching the Red Sox on the satellite dish.
All those years of hard work he spent
All those encouraging words he said, he meant.

He mastered growing oranges,
the sweetest around.
He's told me stories I'll never forget
like about the fights he would start
between a coon and his hound.

He meant so much to all of us,
and our hearts are all at ease
Cause we know he's in heaven now
sitting 'neath the big orange tree.

Gram was an angel that lived on earth.
She put herself aside and put everyone else first.
She used to tell me, "I wish you could've met my mother."
I am thankful for all the time we shared.
A woman of her character, there will never be another.

Everything she shared with me,
all the wisdom that she knew.
One thing is for sure Gram—
I'll tell my kids, I wish they'd met you!

Loving, caring, words just a few
To describe, Gram, how we all felt about you!
In our hearts is where you'll always be,
sitting next to Papa in heaven
'neath the big orange tree.

Gram and Papa

by Robert J. Rapalje, Jr.

September 3, 2022

NOTE: This was written by her grandson Rob and posted on Facebook on the 25th anniversary of the day that his Gram went home to be with the Lord.

It has been 25 years since Gram and Papa passed away. Papa passed in March 1997, and Gram passed on Sept 3, 1997. I will be forever grateful for the influence they both had on my life in so many ways. They both were Christians who were not shy about sharing their faith and were very involved in the church. They valued family time, and it seemed the whole family was over at their house every holiday. We made a lot of memories working in the orange grove and fishing down at the lake. I learned how to drive in his old pickup truck. They were married for 63 years and set a wonderful example of a love that can last a lifetime. I got an early appreciation for old country music icons like Marty Robbins and Eddie Arnold. Gram bought a VHS video camera and was always trying to make sure to capture important family events and gatherings on tape. I miss them more and more as the years go by.

