

Gram and Papa

by Robert J. Rapalje, Jr.

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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.

