

GARY GARVER



Gary Garver, 75, of Callahan, passed away in the early hours of Friday, October 12. Gary volunteered to work the AMVETS booth at the NE Florida Fair on Thursday as he had done for several years. After working all day he came home with his wife, Betty, and fell asleep in his recliner with the remote in his hand. He passed away peacefully while he slept, after living a fulfilling life of service to his God, his family, his country and his community. Gary was born in Millersburg, Ohio and he was the youngest of Dean and Hazel's five children, Kenny, Laura, Bonnie and Harold.

Gary honorably served his country for 27 years in the US Navy and the Naval Reserves before retiring as a Senior Chief. After transitioning from active duty to the reserves, he attended Jones College and began working for Sears. Gary spent 24 years with Sears and retired as their Home Improvement Manager. All who knew Gary would agree that he was not made for retirement, so it was no surprise that before long he began working as a Building Inspector for Nassau County and later for the City of Fernandina, as well as the Code Enforcement Officer for the Town of Callahan, which he continued to do until the end.

Throughout his life, Gary was extremely active in the community and was always looking for ways to serve and to help. He was the Commander of AMVETS Post 2007 and he was also a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Hilliard Post 10095, a member of the American Legion of Hilliard Post 401, and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1088. He served as a Sunday school teacher at First United Methodist Church and he was also a vocalist in the choir. Gary also made countless children happy while being Santa Claus every Christmas. Gary will be missed by many due to being the type of man that never met a stranger and by being someone that was always looking to help. His mother-in-law used to say, "When they made him, they broke the mold."

He is survived by his beloved wife, Betty, who will celebrate their 51 years of marriage on October 27; he was an amazing daddy to his daughters Beffie and Natta-Sue, as well as their husbands Parag and Stephen; a very proud Papa to his six grandchildren Ashley, Victoria (his Tootie), Suvali, Sarah, Caleb and Kalan; and his sister Laura.

The family received friends Monday, October 15 at Callahan First United Methodist Church. The funeral service was held Tuesday, October 16 also at the church. Full Military Honors will also be given at a later date at the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials may be made to Callahan First United Methodist Church.

Condolences may be expressed at www.callahanfh.com.

Arrangements were under the direction of Callahan Funeral Home, Inc.