

LONGNIE D. HALE, SR.



Lonnie 'Buddy' D. Hale, Sr., 71, passed away November 14, surrounded by loved ones, friends and family. He was a strong man but succumbed to his battle with liver complications. He had a smile on his face and comforting words on his lips for everyone that would come to visit him up until the last few days. He headed back Home to be in paradise with his Lord.



Lonnie was born in Madison, Florida to Lewis Van and Annie Mozella Hale on April 20, 1947. Lonnie lived most of his life in Jacksonville. He was a great student and excelled at most subjects. He loved building and fixing things with his own hands. His passions growing up included: music, fishing and hunting and eventually as he got into his teens learning how to build and race cars. He was a great racer and even won a few local trophies. He was a fun guy. In his serious moments, he was dedicated to buckling down and studying to become a dentist. He was on his way to higher education when family and Uncle Sam called. He joined the US Army and served honorably in the 554th Engineering Battalion in 1967-1969 in Vietnam. He saw much conflict but also great positive strives for what Americans were doing to help out the South Vietnamese. Some of the roads he helped engineer and fabricate are still being used today by a proud people and Country. The experience in the military taught Lonnie a lot. He gained maturity beyond his years and a compassion for others and nature that can only come by pushing through the worse things anyone can go through. As they say, no man goes into war and leaves. Lonnie was no exception but he took his scars and built on them a life to be proud of.

Lonnie became a Master Mechanic when he came back from the war. He found a new passion in building and became one of the best at his trade. He also was a fabricator, automotive painter and craftsman. He was known throughout the south for his skill and accomplishments and even traveled for the government to do a few "special" builds for them. Some of these he could not tell you about until he was cleared thru Government channels; our little James Bond of the welding machine. Lonnie loved his job and taught many the craft. He taught his son all he knew in which his son used lovingly in his own path of creation. He was a quiet leader but left all those he taught with a loud message of putting their best foot forward and enjoying what you do because "the results will be better if you do something with Love." Lonnie built, maintained and fixed many of the buildings, highways and machines we see around Jacksonville every day. Lonnie was an integral part of his community.

No more did Lonnie have an impact on his community than with his love, dedication and involvement in the church. Lonnie found the Lord many years after he was married with help of his loving wife and son. He was enlightened by the good news and found a lifetime of inspiration and work in the field of the Lord. Lonnie served in many Churches of Christ in Jacksonville. He helped build and manage the grounds of Chaffee Road Church of Christ. He finally found his forever Home in Callahan Church of Christ. With such loving and kind members Lonnie thrived and helped out in a lot of capacities for many years to come. He served as a Deacon of Benevolence for many years. He helped resolve and restore many homes and families in financial hardship with the help of the church. He was a true and fervent servant of the Lord. No truer friend could you find.

Lonnie loved many things but nothing more than being with his family, his home and traveling. He always wanted to move to Australia. He still loved restoring cars, motorcycles, and hunting but sitting by the lake with his son and grandkids was his Happy Place. He put all his remaining devotion on his family and friends and tirelessly worked to make a happy home for all he gathered round.

Lonnie was survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Patricia Hale; his son Buddy (Kelly) Hale, Jr.; his grandchildren, Austin, Dallas and Christie; his great-grandchildren, Sophia Rose and Ziva Marie; and too many loved family and friends to name. If you knew Lonnie you knew you were loved. His calming, joyful, warm demeanor was a blessing to anyone in any situation. Lonnie had a way to take the worst thing you thought was going on and turn it into something completely different and absolutely better. Lonnie loved nothing more to be around his family and friends and show them a good time. He cared more for others than himself. He went without many times in his life purposely so those around him could have more. He was a personal hero to all who met him. Jesus said, "*Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.*" in Matthew 5:5.

A Celebration of Life service was held November 30 at Callahan Church of Christ. Burial followed at the National Cemetery in Jacksonville, 4083 Lannie Rd. with Military Honors.

In lieu of flowers, consider donating to www.ptsdusa.org.

Arrangements by Corey-Kerlin Funeral Home, 1426 Rowe Avenue, Jacksonville.