



Howdy Harvey

January 21, 1938 - October 16, 2015

HARVEY, Robert C. "Howdy" – 77, of Rio Grande passed away peacefully on Friday, October 16, 2015. Born in Philadelphia to the late Eleanor and Robert Harvey, his family moved to Wildwood in 1950 and Howdy, his nickname given in grade school, later graduated from Wildwood High School in 1957 where he played on their football, basketball and track teams. He was a member of the NJ National Guard for four years and graduated from the first Army NCO Academy. He was later activated to active duty in January 1962 for eight months. He joined the Wildwood Fire Dept. in 1959 and was a member of the Holly Beach Fire Co. #1 where he was still active serving as Secretary and a Fire Police Officer. Over his career with the fire department he held various positions including, Lieutenant and Chief's Aid. In 1984 Howdy was elected as an Executive Committeeman to the New Jersey State Fireman's Assoc., representing both career and volunteer firefighters of Cape May County, serving until 2014. He worked as a general sales manager for the Burke Motor Group from 1960 until his retirement in 2007. An avid skier, he enjoyed downhill skiing at Pico Mountain for many years and served as president of the Village Square, Pico Condo Association in Killington, VT for 11 years. While in Vermont, he enjoyed working in the springtime with his friends who owned a maple syrup business. Howdy enjoyed many things in life, more specifically, hunting, crabbing, fishing, gardening and preparing and providing meals for his family and friends. Howdy thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas Season and was happy to be "Santa" for many years for both the Wildwood Fire Company and the Wildwood Golf and Country Club. He was a dedicated Philadelphia Phillies and Eagles fan. Howdy will be long remembered and forever loved for his old school and traditional values but above all things he is remembered as a devoted father, grandpop and loyal friend. Howdy is dearly missed by his loving family which includes his two children, Pamela (and Dennis) Cluff and Robert H. Harvey; two grandchildren, Dennis and Delaney Cluff and many special friends that he considered family. He is predeceased by his former wife, Patricia; stepson, David and stepdaughter, Patty. Relatives and friends will be received on Thursday (Oct. 22nd) from 9:30am to 11:30am in the Wildwood Convention Center, 4501 Boardwalk, Wildwood where his memorial service will begin at 11:30am. Following his memorial service a procession will travel to the Holly Beach Volunteer Fire Co. #1 where he will receive his Last Call.

Interment will be private and at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to: Holly Beach Fire Co. #1, 4310 Washington Ave., Wildwood, NJ 08260. (Spilker Funeral Home, Cape May) info and condolences: spilkerfuneralhome.com

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Although this website offers many options to send flowers, please observe the family's request to offer a memorial contribution to the Holly Beach Fire Co #1 (address above).

Comments



“ I have known Howdy since coming on the Executive Committee in 1995, he was a gentlemen when it came to business and personal dealings and was always willing to give his opinion on whatever subject may have been discussed. Howdy was for many years Secretary of the Executive Committee and it was certainly a pleasure working with him as he always had the Firefighters of Cape May County at heart. May Howdy rest in peace, he is now in the hands of the Lord. Howdy we have it from here. Good Bless.

Rick Dreby
Burlington County Executive Committeeman.

Richard Dreby - October 21, 2015 at 06:02 PM



“ 29 files added to the album LifeTributes



Spilker Funeral Home - October 21, 2015 at 08:49 AM



“ Rachel Johnson lit a candle in memory of Howdy Harvey



rachel johnson - October 20, 2015 at 12:02 AM



“ I always love Howdy laugh and smile, it would brighten any room. He also was great at being Santa. I can remember when tony told him he needed a breathe mint and cj try to take off his beard. He was good with the kids. Will miss his smile the most.. sleep tight your war is over. Time to enjoy heaven and become Holly Beach guardian Angel love rachel, con, matt, tony and cj.. one more thing say hi to pops for us and John and big Ernie, heaven is not going to be the same.

rachel johnson - October 19, 2015 at 11:59 PM



“ Sorry for your loss, Pam your dad was such a nice man we enjoyed his stories. Thoughts and prayers for your family. Babore family

andrea babore - October 19, 2015 at 06:14 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers for his family. I worked with Howdy at Burke for many years. He was never without a smile or kind words. You couldn't help but feel uplifted and happy whenever he was near



Lorri Hansen - October 19, 2015 at 02:40 PM



“ 175 files added to the album LifeTributes



Spilker Funeral Home - October 19, 2015 at 02:31 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. My husband, Tom and I were a year ahead of Howdy but we knew him well. I saw him occasionally at Burke's and he still had the laughter and friendliness he had in high school. He will be truly missed. Bev (Gross) Clark

Bev Clark - October 19, 2015 at 02:22 PM



“ So sorry for your loss! Sending our love and prayers!
Xoxo Winter, Brett, Denise and Brian



denise favre - October 19, 2015 at 01:15 PM



“ I'm 58 years old and he is still the Real Santa to me. He will surely be missed by many.

Linda - October 19, 2015 at 10:34 AM



“ Harvey, I am so sorry to hear of your Father's passing. My condolences, prayers and thoughts for you during this time. Pat Pedroni

Pat Pedroni - October 19, 2015 at 07:43 AM



“ Howdy was a real life "Santa" bringing joy and good will to every life he touched. Our deepest sympathy to his loving family and friends. He will be sadly missed by all.



Karen & Bruce Fournier - October 18, 2015 at 04:47 PM



“ Sandy Cluff sent a virtual gift in memory of Howdy Harvey



sandy cluff - October 18, 2015 at 01:24 PM



“ So sorry to lose our dear friend who was, indeed, like family. Howdy meant so much to so many people. A truly fine person who put everyone ahead of himself. We miss you, Santa!



Francey Burke - October 18, 2015 at 12:12 PM