



Norman Francis Coffey Jr.

APR 26, 1939 - APR 25, 2018



Scan to Visit

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 6



Norman Francis Coffey Jr.

APR 26, 1939 - APR 25, 2018

Norm (Buddy) died suddenly at his home Wednesday evening. He leaves his wife of 57 years, Marilyn; two daughters, Laura Coffey of Crownsville, MD and Julie McGowan of Pawtucket, RI; the three lights of his eyes, his grandchildren, Dylan, John and Tess, of Rhode Island; his sister and brother-in-law, Sherry and Greg Brox of Fremont, NH; and sister-in-law, Carol Zimmer of Norfolk, MA. He also leaves behind several cousins, and many nieces and nephews.

Buddy was born in Norwood, MA to Norman, Sr. and Mary Coffey of Dedham, MA. He resided in Dedham, and attended Boston Trade School in his teens before joining the Navy. He was stationed in Maryland for a short period, and upon leaving the Navy in 1957, started working at American Motors, where he eventually met Marilyn. Dating for 2 years, they married in 1960 and began their family in Norfolk. Shortly after, he worked as a Parts Manager at an automotive dealership, while also serving as an Auxiliary Officer in Norfolk. Norm then joined Chrysler Corporation in 1966 as a Service Manager, covering the northern New England area. As he climbed the corporate ladder, he moved from New Hampshire to Ohio in 1970, serving in several capacities and locations with Chrysler. He assumed the executive position of Zone Manager while in Cincinnati, and continued that role in Philadelphia, and then the Washington DC area. He retired from Chrysler in 1996 after 30 fulfilling years. Following his retirement, he served as a Reserve Officer for the Anne Arundel County Police Department, as well as volunteering in the start-up of the residential Hospice House while Marilyn was still working at Hospice of the Chesapeake. He also served on the Board of Truckin' 4 Troops from its incarnation in 2011.

Obviously, cars were a huge interest of his, with both classic Mopars and luxury Chryslers parked in the driveway during his tenure at Chrysler. He enjoyed watching and attending NASCAR races, and also befriended the local police departments in each town where he lived, often providing to them sundry items for their cruisers. On the subject of cars, one in particular stands out. During his travels through Indiana, Norm spotted a 1939 Plymouth 2-door. The wheels literally started turning – what a great car to restore! So, on a beautiful Spring Saturday, with a trailer in tow, Buddy set off to buy what he knew would be his pride and joy. Only problem was, over the years,



Obituary

Norman Francis Coffey Jr.

APR 26, 1939 - APR 25, 2018

while this car sat out behind a dilapidated barn, about a dozen chickens and twice as many mice had laid claim to this old bucket of rust. Though they had long since moved on, the car was a dusty, feathered mess, complete with an empty booze bottle. Once the car was loaded on the trailer, Buddy set out for home, with dust and feathers blowing out of the windows as he travelled down I-275. His arrival home was not an especially warm one, but he persisted with his dream of restoration. After months of diligent effort, however, the dream began to fade and eventually died. That '39 Plymouth was then sold to another man with a restoration dream, the only difference being, that old rust bucket did become a beautifully restored classic, worth many more dollars than it ever was before.

Other interests were books and wood -- he was a voracious reader, and anyone who knew him knew that woodworking was his true passion. "Dad's Shop" was one to be rivaled by anyone -- he always had the exact tool needed for a project, or the perfect type of wood, or just the right type of bolt or nail needed. He enjoyed making items that he could give away to friends and family. He also made many toys for the "Toys for Tots" program, as well as making games & puzzles for wounded veterans recovering at Walter Reed Hospital, and sending others overseas to base camps in Kabul.

In both his work through Chrysler as well as at home, he touched a lot of people's lives. He was always willing to help a neighbor, and happily took on the responsibility of being the "go-to" guy for everyone. He enjoyed spending time with neighborhood kids of all ages, playing games and riding bikes with them. On many occasions they would stop by to see if "Mr. Bud" could come out to play. One specially challenged young man comes to mind -- our friend Davey in Cincinnati. He would always ask "Mr. Coffey" to play imaginary baseball with him. Davey was allowed 3 strikes before he was out, but "Mr. Coffey" would be out after just 1 strike. And always, the game was conceded with a smile and a high five for Davey, the winner. Buddy still held close a special water bottle that Davey signed and gave him many years ago.

In Philadelphia, Norm received special commendation from Lee Iacocca, the then-CEO of Chrysler Corporation, and also from the West Chester Police Department for his assistance at the scene of a tragic car accident he came upon on his way to the office one morning.

In recent years, his love of food extended to the preparation of it as well as its consumption, as he would spend hours preparing pickles that he would proudly share with friends. And then there was the homemade pasta, just like his mother used to make, also proudly shared with friends at a Saturday night dinner. His most recent accomplishment was duplicating Ina Garten's "Irish Soda



Obituary

Norman Francis Coffey Jr.

APR 26, 1939 - APR 25, 2018

Bread”, the first few times being supervised by Marilyn until he was comfortable doing it on his own, with only one flop that could not be consumed by humans, but the backyard squirrels certainly had no complaints.

Buddy was well-known for his unique and witty sense of humor; when bantering with friends, his favorite rebuttal was “keep your day job”. He was larger than life to so many. His commitment and generosity to family, friends and work were the epitome of who he was.

To honor Buddy’s generous nature, we respectfully request that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Hospice of the Chesapeake <https://www.hospicechesapeake.org>, Truckin’ 4 Troops <http://truckin4troops.net/>, Faces of Valor <https://www.facesofvalorusa.org/>, Anne Arundel County Public Library <https://www.aacpl.net/>, or your favorite charity.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, 16 June 2018, at Lasting Tributes, 814 Bestgate Road, Annapolis MD 21401. Interment at Crownsville Veteran’s Cemetery will take place at a later date.



Tribute Wall

Norman Francis Coffey Jr.

APR 26, 1939 - APR 25, 2018



Anonymous posted:

June 24, 2018Last night I returned home from Cuba and was informed that "Norm" had passed away in April and I had not been informed of this sad news. I immediately searched my phone records for Marilyn's telephone number and called her and I did not even have to say my name and she knew who was on the phone. I was heart broken that i didn't know before hand of Norm's passing because this is the man that i owe so much for hiring me that faithful day when Chrysler took over the AMC Franchise. In fact, I was the last person officially hired by AMC just before the merger and cannot forget my wife's words to me, " it's time for you to start looking for another job". But Norm had another idea as he interviewed me and gave me an opportunity that changed my world forever. Norm I will miss you forever and sorry that i did not get the chance to say goodbye to you but we will meet again and I will get that second chance. RIP.John C. Felder

June 23 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

We met Bud as he was a regular cyclist through our neighborhood. Bud would always stop and chat, offer stories, and lots of advice about a wide variety of topics. "Cooking" was always a favorite subject! He spoke with such love and care about his family. We shared our love of country and respect for those in the military. Bud was a wealth of friendliness; we were blessed to have known him for even a short period of time.Pat Gronkiewicz

June 15 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I met Norm Coffey (Bud) about 6 years ago when he was working with Trucking for Troops and was building wooden toys for children in Veterans hospitals waiting rooms. I had a cabinet shop so I was able to give him run ends to build toys. He was a true craftsman, but first and foremost a true gentleman. One of the nicest people I've ever met. I have had the pleasure of meeting his wife Marilyn and his daughter Julie who he thought the world of. I know his loving family will miss him dearly as well as anyone who came into contact with him will also.

June 13 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Sherry - Thank you for sharing this. Dad was definitely not one for serious conversation; if he had to be involved in one, he would always clear his throat first. I hope to meet Helen soon....love you!

June 12 at 8:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Norman Francis Coffey Jr.

APR 26, 1939 - APR 25, 2018



Anonymous posted:

I received a phone call this week from a new member of our family. Her name is Helen and she our mother's half sister. The month before he died Buddy and I began making plans to introduce Helen to our entire family. This was not to be. I sent Helen a link to Buddy's obituary and tributes. After she read these she told me that she felt a profound sense of loss although they never had the opportunity to meet. If you had ever tried to engage Buddy in a serious conversation you'd know that this was not in his comfort zone. During a trip to replenish the wine supply, I asked him if he ever wondered if anyone would miss him as much as we miss our father, Norman Sr. He said no, he never thought about it. I, on the other hand, think about it often. After reading the tributes so many friends and family have written about Buddy, I know the answer is yes. There are so many, many people that will miss him that much. What a wonderful legacy to leave his family. His loving sister, Sherry

June 9 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Barbara & Mike Dinger We were both lucky to have know and worked with this great man during our years at Chrysler.

May 9 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Ron Rupp; I worked for Norm at Chrysler Corp. in Philadelphia in the late 70's and early 80's and later worked in the Boston Zone where his daughter, Julie, worked as well. Norm was a great boss and teacher. He also had a kind heart. While working in Philadelphia I had a family emergency in Kansas. Norm allowed me to take 3 weeks vacation (only two weeks were allowed at one time) and said not to worry about the office, we'll handle the paperwork! Norm was well respected and liked by the dealers and Chrysler employees. The world has lost a great man!

May 8 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I have known Norman since we were in first grade. We lost touch after the 8th grade as he went to a different high school. He re entered my life a few years ago through email and phone calls. I will miss his kindness and great sense of humor. He was a WONDERFUL friend. To Marilyn you were so lucky to have him in your life.

May 7 at 8:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Norman Francis Coffey Jr.

APR 26, 1939 - APR 25, 2018



Anonymous posted:

Norm was a true friend and an inspiration to me! He was kind and generous, always doing something for others. I used to enjoy the tours of his woodworking studio and was always amazed at Norm's talents and creations to share with others. His toy trucks and cars that would be given to Veteran's children were especially touching! His volunteer work with the Anne Arundel County police was another way Norm gave back to his community! The world would be a gentler, kinder place if more people had a heart as big as Norm's. My thoughts and prayers go out to Marilyn, Laura, Julie, and the rest of the family! I will miss you my dear Friend!

May 7 at 8:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

ROBERT FORBES: NORM AND I WORKED VERY CLOSE TOGETHER WITH CHRYSLER CORP. WE WORKED WITH ARE DEALERS I AM SURE MANY OF ARE DEALERS FEEL THE SAME AS I DO. IN SAYING "GOD" BLESS NORMAN. WE KEEP IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER ON A DAILY BASICS VIA E:MAIL. NORMAN YOU ARE IN HEAVEN WITH A GREAT GROUP AND THERE WILL BE A DAY THAT I WILL BE WITH YOU WITH "GOD'S" BLESSINGS.

May 7 at 8:00 PM



Candle Of Peace posted:

Marilyn, I am so sorry for your loss. I know your pain. Friends and family will help ease that pain. Buddy was such a special man. Thankfully I have one of his creations in my home. It is a beautiful, inlaid lazy Susan. God bless you at this difficult time. Fondly, Donna Terribile

May 6 at 8:00 PM



Candle Of Warmth posted:

Norm (The Judge) RIP. DIANE and BOB

May 2 at 8:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Norman Francis Coffey Jr.

APR 26, 1939 - APR 25, 2018



Anonymous posted:

My favorite story from Bud involved a time when he worked for a dealer and had his own dealer tags. He would take home different cars at night. One night, he and Marilyn took some friends to dinner at a mall with a multi-story garage. After dinner, he not only could not remember what level they had parked on but he could not remember what kind of car he was driving. A security guard noticed them wandering around and questioned them. Bud said he could not find his car and could not tell the guard what kind of car it was. He did know the licence number. After a while the guard directed him to his car. Norm was a good reserve officer for the county; always trying to improve the reserve program. He will be missed. Howard Graves

May 2 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Norman by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit