



Robert Floyd Kerns

November 14, 1947 - October 25, 2022

Robert Floyd Kerns, 74 of Crawfordville, FL passed away on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, from a lengthy illness. He is survived by his three children, Kenji Ray Kerns of Crawfordville, Mariko Kerns Chaviano (Fernando) of Crawfordville, Robert Jyo Kerns of Perth, Australia, his brother, Ray Gregory Kerns (Pat) of Windsor, MA, and his faithful canine companion, Spot. He is preceded in death by his sweetheart, Kay Williams Kerns, and parents, Floyd and Ruth Kerns of Crawfordville. A memorial service to honor his life will be held at a later date.

Robert “Bob” was a caring husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He was born to Floyd and Ruth Kerns on November 14, 1947. Raised on a farm in Maryland, his childhood was filled with hen houses, show Beagles, his younger brother, Greg, and bike rides as far as his legs could take him. His favorite beagle was named Tina who might have been found with chicken feathers in her mouth a time or two. Bob loved spending time with his grandparents, Everett “Tex” and Erla Radford. Tex, a real Texas sharpshooter, was a WWI veteran who lost his sight during a recovery mission in “No Man’s Land” France. Perhaps it was Tex who instilled in him the importance of never giving up despite disability.

After high school and some time in south Florida where he attended Palm Beach State College, he joined the Air Force during the Vietnam era, and was

soon stationed in Japan and Okinawa. It was there that he met his wife and mother of his children, Eiko in 1972 and joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. After his service ended, they returned to the states. After meeting dear friends from Wakulla County, FL while serving in the military, they decided it sounded like paradise and soon made the move.

1973 changed their lives. Bob was a member of the “Wakulla County Hog Hunters Association” and could recall the most exciting stories on cue. It was here in Wakulla County that they met lifelong friends through the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. They were some of the founding members of the Crawfordville Branch and many days, nights, and weekends were spent helping to clear the land and help build the chapel which stands today. Their children can attest to the dedication and selfless sacrifice shown when it came to serving in whatever capacity he was asked.

Bob worked for the Xerox company as a technician, but the workday didn't end at 5:00pm. As soon as he got home, he was working on his project of the week. He could fix “anything” whether it be a copier, transmission, or leaking roof...he did it all. You'd often see him on his old Ford tractor mowing the pasture or helping cut down brush for an elderly widow down the street. After being diagnosed with a neurodegenerative disease just eight years prior, Bob finally had to quit working in 1990. Though no longer in the workforce, his disability did not slow him down. He showed his children the value of hard work and being self-sufficient. He spent hours teaching his sons and daughter to work on vehicles, work with their hands, various household projects, and where to place the 10mm socket when you were through with it.

Bob loved fishing, camping, boating- where he quickly found out he could destroy a boat & motor much faster in salt water. In his words, “That's when I fell in love.” He was driven and always working and spending time outdoors, spending time with his family and helping his children develop a love of

nature. Perhaps one of his most loved activities was working with his tractors. "Tractor" was his first word, after all.

His marriage to Eiko ended in 1992 and it was later that same year that he met his final companion, Kay Williams. They were wed in August of 1992 and lived happily in Crawfordville, FL. In May of 2001, they served a church mission in Richmond, VA. This was one of their proudest accomplishments and they always spoke fondly of the church members and eternal friends they met while serving the Lord. Though his disease was progressing, he never gave up. Despite being confined to a wheelchair in recent years, you could often find him in his shed or on his mower as cutting grass was his therapy. Sadly, he lost his sweetheart, Kay, to pancreatic cancer in June of 2020 and in February of 2021, he was diagnosed with Stage IV prostate cancer. He did everything he could do for himself until the very end. When help was offered, his answer was often, "I can do it." This mindset is what kept him as active as he was until his body was no longer willing. Though he physically suffered and endured more than most, he kept his sense of humor and never once complained. He was faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, often testifying his knowledge and beliefs to his family and those who would listen. He was a true example to those around him and we are certain he has now heard these words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

A memorial service for Bob will be held from 10:00 -11:00 AM, Saturday, December 3, 2022 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, in Crawfordville: 3251 Crawfordville Hwy. All are welcome to attend and share in this moment with us. Todd Wahlquist with Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193, www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the Kerns family with their arrangements.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

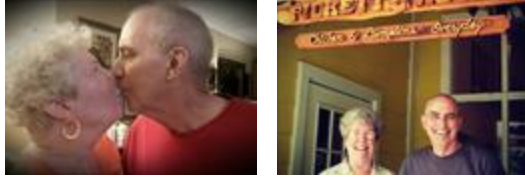
DEC 3. 10:00 AM (ET)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
3251 Crawfordville Hwy
Crawfordville, FL 32327

Tribute Wall

MA

“ 2 files added to the album Memories of Dad



Mari - November 02, 2022 at 03:19 PM

BS

“ *What a dear man and friend. I enjoyed his sense of humor and his love of problem solving. He was willing to help others who were in most cases in better physical condition than he was. I watched in awe of his tenacity to not let anything go unfinished. He was so proud of his children and grandchildren and great grandchildren. He loved that the family would be together for forever. He was passionate about disaster preparedness planning and was expert in all the knowledge he accumulated. He did not just learn and teach he actually practiced what he preached.*

I found him to be a kind soul with the ability to uplift others when they were having a bad time. He made the most of what his progressively weakening body would let him do. I am honored that I had the privilege to call him my friend. What a wonderful example of love and service! He will be greatly missed but not forgotten.

Becky Shuler - October 27, 2022 at 08:44 PM