



Roy E. Sanford

MAY 13, 1941 - JAN 7, 2025



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Roy E. Sanford

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Ladies and gentlemen, family, and friends,
My name is Patricia, and I have had the profound honor of knowing and loving Roy, my husband, for sixty remarkable years. Today, we gather to celebrate the life of a truly extraordinary man, a man whose compassion, friendliness, and boundless love touched each of us in ways that words can scarcely convey. I am grateful for this opportunity to share with you the essence of Roy's spirit and the indelible mark he left on our hearts.

Roy was 83 years old when he left this world, but the legacy he leaves behind is timeless. Born with a heart full of love and a spirit eager to serve, Roy dedicated his life to his family, his faith, and his community. He served honorably as an Air Force veteran, a role that filled him with pride and inspired him to honor fellow veterans at every opportunity.

For over thirty years, Roy worked diligently for the City of Lakeland, and for nearly forty years, he imparted wisdom and faith as a Sunday School teacher. His commitment to Parkway Baptist Ministry spanned more than half a century, a testament to his unwavering devotion to his faith and community.

Roy had a unique gift for turning strangers into friends within moments of meeting them. His friendly nature and compassionate spirit drew people to him, and he never missed an opportunity to share his faith, often leaving behind a gospel track as a token of hope and inspiration. I remember fondly how he would brighten the lives of those who needed a friend, offering a shoulder to cry on, or simply listening with an open heart.

Roy's sense of humor was legendary among those who knew him. He loved to pull pranks and always had a joke ready to share, bringing laughter and joy wherever he went. And, oh, how he loved his food! After finishing a meal, he would eagerly inquire about the next one, especially curious about dessert.



Obituary

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Family was the cornerstone of Roy's life. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, endlessly proud of his family's accomplishments. Our annual family vacations were a highlight for him, a time to create cherished memories and celebrate the bonds that kept us close.

Roy's kind smile and loving eyes were a beacon of warmth and sincerity. As Granny used to say, "Roy would talk the horns off a Billy goat," and indeed, he could engage anyone in conversation, leaving them feeling valued and understood. His presence was a source of comfort and strength, and it is this presence we will miss most dearly.

As we reflect on Roy's life, let us carry forward his legacy of love, service, and faith. Let us remember his kindness and his unwavering dedication to those he loved. Though we mourn the loss of a remarkable man, we also celebrate the incredible life he lived and the countless lives he touched.

In closing, I share with you a simple yet profound reminder, one that Roy embodied every day: Love one another, serve with an open heart, and treasure each moment with those you hold dear. May Roy's memory be a blessing to us all, and may we find comfort in knowing that his spirit lives on in the love we share and the lives he enriched.

Thank you.



Events

Roy E. Sanford

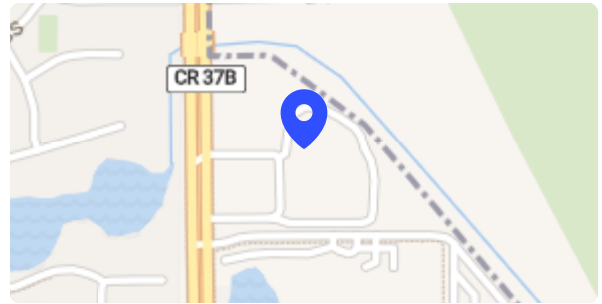
MAY 13, 1941 - JAN 7, 2025

Visitation

Friday, January 10, 2025

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

Parkway Baptist Church
4210 Lakeland Highlands Rd., Lakeland FL 33813

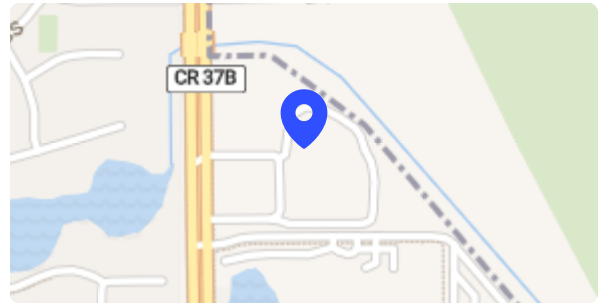


Funeral Service

Saturday, January 11, 2025

11:00 AM ET

Parkway Baptist Church
4210 Lakeland Highlands Rd., Lakeland FL 33813

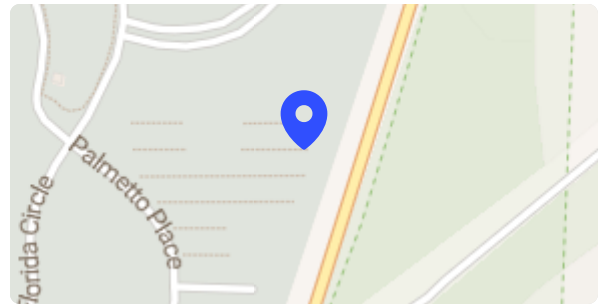


Graveside with Military Honors

Monday, January 13, 2025

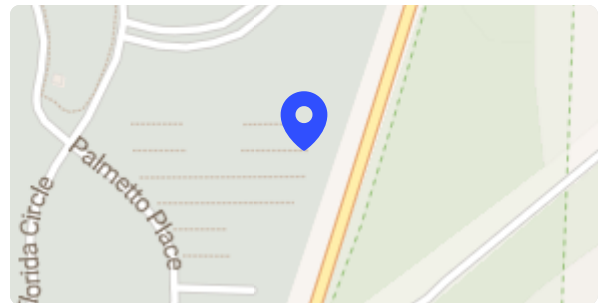
1:30 PM ET

Florida National Cemetery
6502 SW 102nd Ave., Bushnell FL 33513



Cemetery Details

Florida National Cemetery
6502 SW 102nd Ave., Bushnell FL 33513





Tribute Wall

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Diane Mccallister posted:

So very sad that I was out of town when Mr. Roy went home to heaven and that I missed his viewing and funeral. He was a wonderful man in so many ways. Parkway Baptist Church won't be the same without him.

January 13 at 8:12 AM



Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the Sanford family.



January 10 at 9:55 AM



Scott And Lisa Boyd posted:

Heaven is certainly sweeter with this man there! We have precious memories of Roy. Will always remember fondly how he would walk up and say, "You know God loves you and so do I". We love you too Roy! ♥ Until we meet again . . .

January 10 at 7:42 AM



Dianne Vegter posted:

Jerry & I considered Roy & Pat some of our closest friends. We love the memories of when our kids were in school & Jeremy & Keith were best friends & the times our families got together. When we moved to WI, we so enjoyed the 2 visits you made to stay a week with us. My sympathy to all of you & you are in my prayers. Now Pat & I are both widows & will be getting together as often as we can! Roy is with his Lord who he faithfully served.

January 9 at 7:53 PM



Christina, Kimberly And Our Families sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Sanford family.



January 9 at 6:43 PM



Tribute Wall

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CF

Christina, Kimberly And Our Families planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Roy.



January 9 at 6:43 PM

SB

Sonia And Jim Bryant posted:

We will be praying for Pat and the family. He is going to be miss for sure. He went to be with our Savior but what we learned from him stays with us. Roy , a man of God . We will remember his love for the Lord , his love for his brothers and sisters and his love for the lost souls that he was always talking to. He did not waist time to talk to everyone about his Savior and leave them a track. Jim will miss his little brother.

January 9 at 6:17 PM

HW

Hannah And Roger Williams posted:

I don't put words together like I once did, but Roy will be greatly missed. Roger and I will miss our lunchtime chatter and our competitive card game of Five Crowns with Roy's famous words of, " Is it time for dessert?" before the first game was done. Roy always listened well and blessed our hearts with his humor and his compassion. We look forward to the day when we will never again say goodbye. We are here for you, Pat (second Mamma). We love you dearly!

January 9 at 2:10 PM

JC

Jim Charlton posted:

I first met Roy while in the Air Force in Spain. We were room mates for a little over two years and developed a friendship that lasted over sixty years. My wife and I enjoyed exchanging visits with Roy and Pat. During our friendship I came to admire Roy for his great faith and his love for Pat, Keith and Kari as well as his grandchildren. After the death of my wife, our friendship was not as close as it once was, but on the few occasions that we emailed or called each other, it was obvious that Roy's faith and love of family actually grew stronger. As an Air Force friend Roy helped me face a difficult situation and the death of my father. He was a source of strength and understanding then and continued to be during our long friendship. Even though we did not have much contact in recent years I am saddened that I did not do more to maintain that close friendship. Pat, your obituary of Roy was beautifully done and truly captured the good person he was. I extend my sympathies and prayers to you, Keith, Kari and all your family. May God bless you and comfort you. Jim Charlton

January 9 at 9:54 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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