



Gerald "Bruce" Lee Elrod

July 28, 1949 - January 31, 2017

Elrod, Gerald Lee, Sr. (Bruce)

July 28, 1949 – January 31, 2017

Gerald Lee Elrod, Sr. (Bruce), 67, of Moreland, surrounded by family at his bedside, died at Piedmont Hospital of Newnan due to complications from lung disease.

Bruce was the fourth of five siblings; three brothers, Clyde, Danny and Rex; and one sister, Tricia. Everyone in Moreland knew the Elrods who lived on what is locally known as the square in Moreland, Georgia. Bruce was the baby of the family until his youngest brother, Rex, came along when Bruce was twelve. Being the youngest for those twelve years meant he took the brunt of the punishment from his older brothers, which forced him to fight back ten-fold. It was this fighting spirit that helped Bruce navigate some of the toughest health problems he experienced during his adult life.

In 1967 when Bruce turned eighteen, he went to the recruiter with a friend from Moreland to join the fight against the spread of communism in Vietnam by enlisting in the Marines. It was during this visit that he discovered he had a heart murmur and was labeled 4-F by the recruiter. This bad news turned out to be fortuitous because it allowed him to meet Ann Carter at a local dance in the old Newnan roller skating rink. Bruce and Ann started to see each other regularly and in February 1968 were married in Ann's parents' living room. In September of that same year, Bruce and Ann had their first child, Lee; three years later, another child, Joe, was born. Bruce and Ann worked hard to make

ends meet. Bruce worked at the William L. Bonnell Company in Newnan, and Ann worked several different jobs to help augment their income.

Although Bruce had a heart murmur, it never slowed him down. Bruce was an excellent athlete playing in a volleyball league at the YMCA and church league softball for Moreland Methodist Church and Moreland Baptist for more than ten years. He was an avid outdoorsman and spent his life fishing and hunting when he wasn't hitting a little white ball across the links. Bruce grew to love golf so much that in 1976 he quit his job at Bon-L to work as the pro golfer at Beaver Lake Golf Course in Gay, Georgia. Both his sons remember picking up golf balls on the driving range the entire summer of 1976. Bruce discovered the life of a golf pro at Beaver Lake wasn't all glamour and glitz like he imagined and decided to go back to work at Bon-L. He poured everything into his work and in 1978 was offered a foreman position in Carthage, Tennessee. After a year in Carthage, Bruce promoted again to General Foreman, this time back in Newnan. After a few years, Bruce promoted to Superintendent of the Casting Department and then on to Production Manager, managing six different departments. He finished his 45 years at Bon-L in the Sales Department as the Applications Manager. During his 45 years at Bon-L, Bruce was able to travel to Europe and Canada and other parts of the U.S. assisting other aluminum extrusion companies and customers in the Tredegar Industries Group.

While on a hunting trip in 1981 at the age of 30, Bruce's heart murmur became more than a murmur when he nearly blacked out climbing a hill. He went to his doctor and discovered he needed his main aorta valve replaced. Bruce underwent his first heart surgery and recovered quickly, hitting golf balls again within a few weeks. Eight years later, he discovered his valve needed replacing again. A mechanical valve was put in and he quickly recovered from this surgery. Bruce never let his health issues slow him down. He and Ann would go whitewater rafting and canoeing with friends, hang-glide, and in their 50s motorcycling all over Georgia. For several years, Bruce played in the Atlanta Lawn Tennis Association Men's Doubles BB division with his son, Joe.

He loved to fish and took several fishing trips to Florida and bought a boat so he could fish at West Point Lake whenever he wanted. Always the competitor, he entered in several fishing tournaments through the years trying to take home the big prize.

Hoping to spend more time together at home and with their family, Bruce and Ann retired within months of each other in 2014. In early 2016, Ann passed away unexpectedly from a heart attack, devastating Bruce and his boys. In December 2016, Bruce discovered that his lungs were not healthy resulting from repeated bouts of inflammation the cause of which is unknown. They are both now joined with the Lord; Ann decorating her table and Bruce coming home to tell her about his golf game.

Bruce is survived by his two sons, Lee Elrod and Joe Elrod of Newnan, Georgia; daughters-in-law, Janet Elrod and Kim Elrod; grandchildren, Scarlett Elrod and James Elrod; Sam Elrod and Zoe Elrod; his brothers Danny Elrod and Rex Elrod; his sister Patricia Elrod; his sister-in-law, Paula Elrod, his nieces, Tiffany Elrod and Ginger Avenali; and Danielle Elrod.

Condolences may be expressed to the family at www.mckoon.com.

A memorial service will be held at McKoon Funeral Home on Saturday, February 4, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. The family will receive family and friends one hour prior to service time.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

Cemetery Details

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory

38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com

Service

FEB 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Gerald "Bruce" Lee Elrod.*



February 03, 2017 at 04:57 PM



“ *Ashley & Shane Tomashot purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Gerald "Bruce" Lee Elrod.*



Ashley & Shane Tomashot - February 03, 2017 at 02:57 PM



“ *Your Atlanta MC2 Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gerald "Bruce" Lee Elrod.*



Your Atlanta MC2 Family - February 03, 2017 at 02:40 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Gerald "Bruce" Lee Elrod.*



February 03, 2017 at 01:10 PM

RC

“*Lee and Family: My thoughts are with you and your family during this sad time in life. I remember you when you were just a few years old. Also, I remember your mother, your dad's parents, brothers, and sister. Bruce and I grew up together there in Moreland. Even though he was 2 years old than I was, we played football together where the fire station is now housed. I always called him "Bushmouth". He thought he was the "Joe Namath" of Moreland and he was. He even wore a pair of white football cleats and he sure could throw a football. We also played softball together on the Baptist Church team. Also, a very good softball player. We played the outfield together when he wasn't in the infield. It has been years since I last saw Bruce since I left Moreland in 1971 to start an Air Force career. I was able to talk to your dad a few years ago. We discussed many things to include you and your Navy career. He and your mom were so proud of your accomplishments. It has been a rough year for the Elrod family. May God be you and yours during this time of sorrow. Ray Craven, Ft. Walton Beach, FL*

Ray Craven - February 03, 2017 at 10:45 AM

GW

“*I am so very sorry to hear of Bruce's passing. I was so shocked last year when Ann died so quickly and now for you all to lose Bruce is devastating, I know. My sincerest condolences to the family. Lee, my son Jon was a classmate of yours; Bruce was my student at Newnan High School when he was in the ninth grade; and I met Ann later when she worked for the Coweta County School System. What a sweet lady always with a beautiful smile! Take comfort in knowing that you were blessed to have had wonderful parents. His obituary was very special and tells the life story of a very special person. I lost touch with him after high school, but this is indeed the story of a man with a life well-lived, never giving up his zest for life and giving his family wonderful memories of a great man. Bless you all and be comforted.*

Geraldine Welch - February 03, 2017 at 06:47 AM

LE

Thank you so much Ms. Welch for your tribute. If you had my dad in one of your classes, I'm sure he was causing trouble:) It has been a very difficult year for our family. Life as we knew it a year ago has changed in so short a time, it is difficult to reconcile all of it sometimes. My parents packed a lot of living in their life and enjoyed all of it. I do remember Jon. I had a few classes with Jon in school and actually bumped into him at Home depot in Marietta a few years ago before he moved to Turkey. We linked up on Facebook as well.

Lee Elrod - February 03, 2017 at 08:10 AM

RG

“ *Lee & family.. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you prepare to lay your father to rest. This has been a pretty rough year for your family. Continue to pray and God will give you the peace and comfort that you need.*

God Bless!

Rhonda Graves & family

Rhonda Graves - February 02, 2017 at 05:05 PM

RA

“ *May God give you and your family strength and comfort during this time of need. As you and Janet go whitewater rafting, just feel that your Mom and Dad are with you. .*



Regina M Abraham - February 02, 2017 at 02:52 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gerald "Bruce" Lee Elrod.*



February 02, 2017 at 01:24 PM



“ *Keith & Stacey Rayburn purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Gerald "Bruce" Lee Elrod.*



Keith & Stacey Rayburn - February 02, 2017 at 12:44 PM



“ *I will always remember the times spent on the golf course with Bruce. He was a fierce competitor and was always ready to share funny stories from the past. Go with God my friend.*
Keith Rayburn

Keith Rayburn - February 02, 2017 at 11:48 AM