
Emmett Deitz(1931 - 2015)

Emmett Edwin Deitz,

Taylors

Emmett Edwin Deitz, was born February 2, 1931 in Bryson City, NC and passed away on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at Richard M. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home after suffering from dementia for many years.

He was the youngest child of Frank and Millie Deitz and the little brother of Ray, Gladys, Guy, Edith and Helen, all who predeceased him.

He is survived by his wife, Voncie Jordan Deitz and his daughters, Ember Deitz Goldstein (Evan) and Holly Deitz Goen (Robert) and grandsons, Zachary and Marcus Goldstein.

He grew up West in Asheville, where he excelled at sports and won every award he was eligible for in football, baseball, and basketball.

He graduated from Lee Edwards High School and attended the University of South Carolina on a football scholarship while also under contract to the Cincinnati Reds organization. He was a U.S. [Army](#) veteran and member and former deacon of Taylors First Baptist Church.

Emmett was drafted into the Army after his freshman year at USC and after his discharge became a semi-professional baseball catcher. He loved to roam around the country and meet people and have adventures while playing baseball.

Eventually, he found his way to Furman University where he would meet his future wife. They spent their honeymoon in Pierre, SD, where he played his last games of baseball and she introduced the locals to okra and grits.

After graduation, he taught English and Journalism at Slater-Marietta High School and then spent some time with the Department of Defense in Warner Robins, GA. He then began a career with the Social Security Administration in Greenville until he retired after 20 years of service. He spent many years of his retirement as Santa Claus at Haywood Mall where he started the tradition of Storytime with Santa. He was a natural born storyteller and speech maker, so it was a perfect fit. In the last months of his life, when dementia had robbed him of so much, he was still able to offer a snappy comeback or witty banter. It was a gift.

Emmett was an interesting character who everyone seemed to know. He could walk into a room and take charge in five minutes or less. He cared nothing for material possessions and tried to help whomever he could, whenever he could, especially if what they needed was his time. He attended every event his daughters ever participated in. Every recital, concert, performance or meeting. He was an advocate for the underdog and detested bullies. His favorite piece of advice was, "Never trust a man who won't lie for his friends."

The family would like to thank all of the caregivers who helped make his last few years better than they could have been: Amedisys Home Health Care, whose help allowed his family to care for him at home; Caris Hospice of Greenville and Anderson, who made sure his last few months and hours were as pain-free and comfortable as possible; Richard M. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home, where he spent his last few months surrounded by caring folks and a beautiful landscape; and his son-in-law, Robert Goen, who was his caregiver at home until it just wasn't possible anymore.

Please, no flowers. Instead, take someone out to lunch, spend time with a friend you haven't seen in a while or just sing, "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" out loud. He'd really get a kick out of that.

The funeral service will be held Sunday, June 28, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at Taylors First Baptist Church with visitation following. A private burial will be held at a later date.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.thomasmcafee.com.

Thomas McAfee Funeral Home, Downtown.



Funeral Home

Thomas McAfee Funeral Home - Downtown Chapel

639 North Main Street Greenville, SC 29601

(864) 232-6733

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