



Mr. Bernard "Bernie" James Graper Sr.

February 14, 1936 - May 21, 2015

Mr. Bernard James "Bernie" Graper, Sr., 79, of Salisbury, passed away Thursday, May 21, 2015 at the Glenn A. Kiser Hospice House.

Born February 14, 1936, in Pittsburgh, PA, he was the son of the late William Graper and Bertha Zirkelbach Graper.

Mr. Graper graduated from Allegheny High School and attended Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, PA. He was veteran of the US Navy during the Korean War.

He was a commercial construction superintendent before retiring and owned Camelot Commercial Contracting.

Mr. Graper was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church where he served as an usher and on the Parish Life Committee.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Jean Whitehead Graper; brothers, Robert Graper and William Graper; sisters, Virginia Mullens, Jean Frederick, Katherine Lurk and Betty Smith.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Caroline "Candy" Graper; sons, Bernard James Graper, Jr.; John Graper and wife Deborah all of Jacksonville,

FL; daughter, Janeen Graper of Dallas, TX; step-daughters, Kimberly Russell and husband Leonard of Windham, ME and Tammera Taylor and husband Bobby of Kannapolis; grandchildren, Christina Stockbridge of Franklin, NH, Ryan Graper of New Hampshire; step grandchildren, Jason Earnhardt of Kannapolis, John Earnhardt and Joshua Earnhardt of Cornelius, Matthew Russell and Kirstin Russell of Windham, ME

A memorial service will be conducted 10 AM Saturday (May 30) at St. Luke's Episcopal Church with Father Robert Black, officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 131 W. Council St., Salisbury, NC 28144 or Rowan Hospice and Palliative Care, 720 Grove St., Salisbury, NC 28144

Summersett Funeral Home is assisting the Graper family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

ST

“ Although not my "real" uncle, as Bernie's first wife, Jean, was my mom's cousin, he always treated me as his nephew, and I always called him Uncle Boge or Uncle Bernie.

Late in my sophomore year in high school, my mom moved to Massachusetts, but I wanted to stay and finish the school year in Portsmouth NH. Uncle Bernie and Aunt Jean agreed to take me in, feed me, and give me a place to sleep even though I was a excessively hormonal challenged 15 year old boy who already knew everything there was to know about the world and the way it worked, and was desperately trying to learn all I could about female anatomy. Janeen and Barney probably remember this phase, as I think I may have hit on a few of Janeen's friends, and Barney was what we would call today my wing-man. :-) I still remember that as the best summer of my life.

Uncle Boge also sold me my very first automobile for \$1. It was a 1961 or 63 Chevy Impala, and calling it an autoMOBILE may be a slight exaggeration, but it ran...most of the time, and when you pulled into the gas station you asked the attendant to fill the oil and check the gas. So not only was it transportation, but it killed mosquitoes also.

During that time, Bernie was some kind of construction supervisor building the Margeson Apartments (elderly housing high rise) in Portsmouth. I don't recall if he deliberately told me, or if I overheard him telling someone else how once they had built past the 4th story, the guys used to take their lunch breaks on the west side of the building, because there were a couple of co-eds who lived in an apartment next to the construction site who would use that time to work on their all-over tans. Alas, the day he took us down to show us around the job site was an overcast, misty day, and all i got to see was the rooftop tanning area, completely depopulated. I suspect he picked that day on purpose, worrying about polluting our young minds with tawdry images of gorgeous, sun bathing, nubile young women. (In my 15 year old mind, they were always gorgeous,

nubile young women sunbathing on that rooftop...)

Anyway, Thank you, God bless you, Uncle Bernie, and if you are doing construction up in heaven, I hope you have a great seat on the west side for lunch.

Steve Tice - May 27, 2015 at 03:24 PM

JG

Nice story.

Johj Graper - May 28, 2015 at 06:27 AM

XJ

“ *XOXO Janeen, Barney, and John purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Mr. Bernard "Bernie" James Graper Sr..*



XOXO Janeen, Barney, and John - May 23, 2015 at 12:42 PM

MM

“ *Bernie was a special husband, step-father, grandfather and friend to many people. He will be truly missed. Love to the family.*
Jeff and Marnie Messenger

marnie messenger - May 22, 2015 at 07:36 PM