



Mr. Richard A. Brunkhorst

May 5, 1929 - February 9, 2021

Richard August Brunkhorst passed away on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at his home in Easton, Maryland. He was 91.

Born on May 5, 1929 in Union City, New Jersey, Richard was the son of the late William Joseph Brunkhorst and Elizabeth F. Walter Brunkhorst. In 1951, the family relocated to Preston, MD, where they started a farm and ran it for 15 years.

In June of 1958, Richard married Elizabeth “Betty” Lee Hopkins in Ridgely, MD. They made their home in Federalsburg, then Preston, and finally moving to Easton in early January 1967.

Richard served proudly in the Maryland Army National Guard for 23 years. He was a Co-Founder and member of the Eastern Shore Antique Arms Collectors Association, as well as a member of the Eastern Shore Archeology Association and St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church.

Richard enjoyed the beach, history, traveling, woodworking, yard sales, flea markets, as well as buying, selling and collecting antiques.

He is survived by his son, Paul Brunkhorst and his wife, Kristine Quintero, of Stevensville, MD and his daughter, Theresa Johnson and her husband, Kevin Johnson, of Holly Ridge, NC.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Elizabeth “Betty” Lee Brunkhorst.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 12PM at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A. 200 S. Harrison St., Easton, MD 21601, where friends and family may call one hour prior from 11AM-12PM. Burial with military honors will follow at Maryland’s Eastern Shore Veteran’s Cemetery in Hurlock.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105, <http://www.stjude.org>.

Due to COVID restrictions, attendance will be limited to 50 guests. Friends are encouraged to join the services virtually via Zoom, or through the live webcast through our webpage. Guests may also sign the families virtual guestbook which will be provided to the family at the conclusion of the services.

To register and join the services via Zoom, please use the link below:

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYqdO2rpzkhNe36E_wft1H3IKLg0UnAPHB

Cemetery

**Maryland Eastern Shore Veterans
Cemetery**

Hurlock, MD,

Events

FEB 18 Visitation 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home
200 S. Harrison Street EASTON, EASTON,
MD, US, 21601

FEB 18 Service 12:00PM

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home
200 S. Harrison Street EASTON, EASTON,
MD, US, 21601

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - February 18 at 11:17 AM



“ One of the finest platoon Sargents ever served with. He was dedicated to get the job done, and took care of all his people. Cpt.. George Wheatley USA MDARNG (Ret)

George Wheatley - March 10 at 09:49 PM



“ Mary Clare Hughes lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard A. Brunkhorst



Mary Clare Hughes - February 28 at 10:49 PM



“ My dear friend

The journey

My friendship began with a simple hi as we walked by with our dogs down Tred Avon Ave. I took note of this tall, well dressed, strong looking man cutting his sizeable property on a diagonal route and pulling every weed that he could find. This wasn't a trim; this was a full out assault on a complete and meticulous job with no short cuts that he enjoyed.

From cutting and stacking the fire wood, to pruning the trees atop a six-foot step ladder with a long pruning pole in hand, shaping the box woods to perfection, to painting the trim on the home, I knew we had something here that required further attention.

There was one time that we were not in Easton for a few weeks during the summer and the grass grew too long at 112 Tred Avon Ave. Easton Utilities sent me a photo of the grass and that I was in violation of town code and that next time I would be gifted a citation. By the time I got to Easton, the grass in the front yard had already been cut. (I assumed Easton utilities may have cut the grass) but what I found out was that my friend pushed his lawn mower up the street to cut the grass. When I realized what took place, I went down and thanked him with much embarrassment but he answered he needed something else to do that day. That's who he is.

The casual hi, turned into how are you doing, to what are you doing, to do you need any help?

Before I knew it, I was drawn into what was an inspiring and accomplished man who had much to share on too many to mention of "life's experiences"; his extended family, his wife Betty, children Paul and Theresa, four brothers, parents, friends, antique gun shows, flea markets, farming, Preston, The Towne of Easton, Talbot County and the history of our beloved country.

Character, Honor, Pride, Values, Virtues and Truth were the backbone of this gentleman and all of it he was willing to share.

Gentleman: "a chivalrous, courteous or honorable man"

His memory was beyond impressive and attention to detailed time lines was spot on. It was simple, non-assuming and comforting to spend the time talking about the topics of the day.

My visits progressed from the short hi, to what became our fireside chats, over coffee and a breakfast sandwich either on the back porch in good weather or inside in the Sun room during the cold weather. Hour plus conversations blew by like it was five minutes and there was never a boring minute or lack of attention. This was no doubt a mutual friendship.

We would go over many of his findings of interest; German beer steins, restaurant ware creamers, antique firearms, American Civil war prints, clocks, postcards, historic books, signal cannons to name a few and of course, photos of the family.

If he mentioned what was considered a bad thing that had happened that day, he stated it “went over like a turd in a punch bowl”. Talk about humor. You bet I laughed.

For me, this portion of my weekly Easton trips from Annapolis was the high-light of my “to do list”. It was by far the most important time spent that filled my heart and soul with joy as this man helped reinforce my values of what’s important in our life’s journey.

I had been telling my friend that I was looking for the right home to purchase and move to Easton permanently and he encouraged me to “burn the bridge” and make it happen. Up-date, we did close on the 5th of February 2021 and was looking forward to our “show and tell” and “fireside chats” down the street when I was settled.

A great pool of knowledge, friendship and care ended too soon but will not be forgotten as all of us who were fortunate to have known him either as a friend or family member, no matter for how long, we now have the torch to carry in his memory to be the best we can be and to remember what is most important; Family, Friends and giving.

Tom Kicklighter

Tom Kicklighter - February 21 at 04:52 PM



“ He was a decent and honorable man. He became a friend to all he met. The world would be a better place if there were more people like him.

Dallas Pope - February 19 at 09:10 AM



“ We will miss our very dear Uncle Rich. Looking back, we have these fond memories to share.

Our earliest memories are of a big, strong young man with an infectious smile and a hearty laugh riding the fields of our Grandparent's farm on a huge tractor. We were so excited when he would take us kids very early in the morning to feed the chickens in the huge chicken house.

Uncle Rich was the "coolest" of all our cool uncles. He would drive up the dirt road in front of the farm in his iconic mid-50's Chevy leaving a trail of dust in his wake. In the 60's, he topped that by buying a '67 Chevy Camaro. We remember him in his Army National Guard uniform looking like Robert Mitchum in a 50's film noir movie.

We'll never forget the amazed look on his face when he entered the restaurant for his surprise birthday party and saw all his many relatives and friends who came to celebrate his 90th. He was genuinely overwhelmed that so many people came out to honor him!

Uncle Rich, you will live on in our hearts forever!

Love,
Billy and Joan Brunkhorst

Bill and Joan Brunkhorst - February 18 at 10:04 AM



“ Sending hugs and sincere Condolences to Theresa, Paul, family and friends. I thought the world of your parents and share fond memories back in my grade school days at Sts Peter & Paul School, Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this sad and tragic time. Sincerely, Melinda Ewing and parents Carl and Susie Ewing.



Melinda Ewing - February 17 at 08:07 PM



“ I just want to say how sorry I am about Mr. Brunkhorst. I drove by his home almost every day, never thinking anything like this would ever fall upon him. I didn't know him but I will always remember him out in the yard, always keeping his lawn pristine. There WILL be a special place for him in heaven's garden. He will take special care for it as he did on earth. God Bless

Ellen Cooper - March 05 at 07:21 PM



“ What could one possibly say that could justly pay tribute to or begin describe Richard.

Uncle Rich, as his wonderful and rather extended family who I met at his surprise 90th birthday party called him, was truly a remarkable man. His broad historical knowledge (not to mention the ability to remember it all), regularly astounded me and I'm sure impressed many others.

Yet, Richard's quiet humbleness, sense of humor and above all, concern and kindness

for his family, friends and those less fortunate, placed him in a higher and all too rare category of humanity.

As he cared for, honored and missed his beloved Betty, I know we shall all honor and remember him and hopefully this shall give comfort to his loving son Paul and Daughter Teresa and all who knew and cared for him as I did. He will greatly be missed.

Windy Hill Eric

Eric S Sirulnik - February 17 at 04:25 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard A. Brunkhorst.



February 16 at 07:11 PM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard A. Brunkhorst.



February 16 at 06:17 PM



“ We knew Richard and Betty from Topsail when we met 32 years ago. They were such a lovely couple. My family, including my kids, always looked forward to our visits. Richard had such a wealth of knowledge. We always enjoyed history trivia that he would share with us. We will certainly be missed by our family and by our community at the beach. Our thoughts, prayers, and deepest sympathy are with Richard's family. Rest in peace Richard.

Betsy Kern - February 16 at 03:31 PM



“ I didn't know Richard or his wife very well and yet they asked me into their home a few times when I would stop by their yard sales to show me things they had collected. I guess we had the collecting bug in common. Lol. I collect advertising and stoneware and old bottles and Richard let me in his basement a couple times to admire his stoneware whiskey jugs. I would also talk to him and his wife when they set up at Tuckahoe steam show. Such nice people. I was deeply saddened and upset to hear what had happened to Richard and would like to extend my deepest sympathies to his family. He was a great guy. Rest in peace.

Eric Gunn - February 16 at 09:16 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard A. Brunkhorst.



February 16 at 07:44 AM



“ Uncle Rich, you were so many things to so many people. Were you the most vivacious, active, hilarious, and generous 91-year-old man I've ever known? Absolutely.

You were also a caring friend, a steadfast brother, a husband full of romantic gestures, a devoted father to your children and father figure to your nephews and extended family, a compassionate neighbor and community member, and warm spirit who extended yourself to all.

Your love of history will be remembered, and your own history will not be forgotten. We promise. Our hearts our broken, but we will love you, always.

Sending virtual hugs to Paul and Theresa



Kate Brunkhorst - February 16 at 07:23 AM



“ Brandi Coursey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard A. Brunkhorst



Brandi Coursey - February 15 at 02:22 PM



“ What a wonderful man. A long time friend of ours who always had a smile and friendly greeting. Loved to show off his collections and talk 'guns' because he was extremely knowledgeable. He will be terribly missed. Condolences to the family.

Mary Linda and Ted Thomas - February 15 at 11:17 AM



“ Jacki - Kirwan Carels lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard A. Brunkhorst



Jacki - Kirwan Carels - February 15 at 07:49 AM



“ Did not know him well other than to speak to him on his daily walks down Tred Ave Ave. I only had the opportunity to speak with him a few times but he appeared to live life to its fullest and loved working in his yard. He will be missed. So sorry for your loss

Carol Lofland - February 14 at 06:04 PM



“ My most sincere deepest sympathies to Paul, Theresa, family and friends. It was truly a blessing to have known Richard and Betty for about 45 years or so. Always enjoyed visiting with them and chatting things we shared in common. May you Rest In Peace and be reunited with the love of your life. I as many will miss you dearly.

Dave Mark - February 14 at 08:40 PM



“ I have known Richard,his lovely wife,son Paul and daughter Theresa since the early 70's and though I had not seen them for many years,the wonderful memories are very much a part of me. Richard and I shared a love of collecting(coins for me) and we would often swap stories and finds. Their home was always warm and inviting,their yard meticulous. I am truly blessed to have known each of both Richard and Betty. My deepest love and prayers to Paul and Theresa.

Scott Vogel - February 17 at 05:29 PM



“ Theresa, Paul and your family are in our prayers. I had the pleasure of working with your Dad at the Senior Center and he was wonderful and inspiring. His love for you was undeniable and he was so very proud of you both. He was always keeping himself busy and so enjoyed working in the yard which was immaculate. He will forever be in our hearts.

Deb Buchholz Keyser and Harry Keyser - February 18 at 09:37 AM



“ Paul & Theresa ~My condolences on the tragic loss of your father. One of my friends sent the article in the Star Democrat to me. I remember him being such a nice man. It's seems so wrong to lose him in this manner. My sincerest sympathies.

Kathleen (Neal) Paneitz - February 25 at 10:31 PM