



Grady Laverne Conaway

June 7, 1944 - November 27, 2013

Grady Laverne Conaway, 69, of Chester, MD, passed away peacefully at his home on November 27, 2013, surrounded by his family.

Born in Sebastian, FL, on June 7, 1944, he was the son of the late Carl Grady and Annie Jemiah Price Conaway. Mr. Conaway graduated from Vero Beach High School in the Class of 1962. He came to the Eastern Shore to work on the water and met and married Cheryl Dianne Hall. The couple made their home on Kent Island, where they raised their family. Mr. Conaway worked in the seafood industry all of his life and ultimately found professional success as Senior Vice President of Operations with Mayetta Business Enterprises, as well as, making life-long friends and extended family in Manahawkin, NJ.

Mr. Conaway pitched softball for the Dominion Devils and the 86ers. He was inducted into the Softball Hall of Fame in 2005. Mr. Conaway owned Rare Breed Stables and raced standardbred horses for many years. He loved the water and took his family for fishing trips and riding around the Island in his boat, "My Buddies," which was named after his grandsons.

He is survived by his wife, Cheryl Conaway; his daughters, Sherri Givens of Grasonville, MD, and Shannon Mench of Chester, MD; grandsons, John Givens and Ethan Mench; and sisters, Janet Thornton, Hilda Patterson, Juanita "Skeet" Pate, Patsy Sexton, and Susie Sunnycalb, all of Florida. He

was preceded in death by a sister, Inez Knowles; and a brother, Winford "Preach" Conaway.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Donor Services, P.O. Box 4072, Pittsfield, MA 01202, www.lls.org; or Hospice of Queen Anne's, Inc., 255 Comet Dr., Centreville, MD 21617.

Local services will be private, followed by a memorial service at 1:00 p.m. on December 14, 2013, at the Strunk Funeral Home in Sebastian, FL.

Tribute Wall



“ *Grady Laverne Conaway*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Grady Laverne Conaway*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Grady Laverne Conaway*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *UNCLE VERNE WAS THE BEST HE CARED DEEPLY FOR HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS WE HAD A SPECIAL CONNECTION THROUGH RACING IT WAS SOMETHING I AM GRATEFUL WE GOT TO SHARE I WILL MISS HIM A GREAT DEAL BUT AM GLAD FOR ALL THE TIME AND TALKS WE HAD*



GAIL PATTERSON LEWIS - July 13, 2014 at 09:59 PM



“ VERN WAS ALWAYS A GENTLEMEN WITH A SMILE ON HIS FACE , WHEN I WORKED AT HIS PACKING HOUSE IN LITTLE CREEK I COULD NOT HAVE ASKED FOR A BETTER BOSS . HE WAS A SWEET MAN THAT LOVED HIS FAMILY LIFE IN GENERAL . MY CONDOLENCES TO HIS DAUGHTERS, GRANDSONS, AND MANY FRIENDS AND FAMILY THAT WILL SURELY MISS HIM .KATHY LEE HYDE

Kathy Hyde - December 04, 2013 at 04:22 PM

SM

“ Verne has been a friend and comrade since the Old Salt- Calvert Shell days.His spirit and ethic has never waivered, "Old School". My prayers and condolences to his family.

Skip McAuliffe

skip McAuliffe - December 04, 2013 at 07:49 AM

TB

“ I've know Verne for a long time in my relationship to the Truex's and the clam world. Many times Verne has hosted me at "The Bay House". Always smiling and most hospitable. There is nothing he wouldn't do for me. A man who juggled countless work issues with ease. There was never a problem he couldn't solve. We will miss him greatly.

Deepest sympathy to the family.

Ted Blount

Ted Blount - December 04, 2013 at 07:47 AM

BB

“ Verne will be sorely missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. He has played an integral role in the success of Sea Watch through his complete dedication and work ethic. More importantly he was a man who would go out of his way to extend help in any way possible regardless of the situation. Deepest sympathy to his family.

Bob Brennan

bob brennan - December 03, 2013 at 03:16 PM

DK

“ I have many fond memories of Verne on the softball field and in the seafood business - he was a good man and caring friend. My deepest sympathy to his family and those close to him. Sincerely,
Debbie Kiel

Debbie Kiel - December 03, 2013 at 02:45 PM

DR

“ I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to your family during your time of sorrow. Although I had only met Verne a few times, his sense of humor is something I will remember. I will keep your family in my prayers.

*Pickles
Blount Seafood*

Diane Ribeiro - December 03, 2013 at 07:13 AM

SS

“ Laverne was the greatest brother, father, husband ,there was his family always came first he love his family with all his heart ,and was a very caring person and tried to show how much he loved us all I will never forget you Laverne we had a lot of good times growing up have a lot of memories I love you rest in peace Susan Sunnycalb

susan sunnycalb - December 03, 2013 at 12:27 AM

JW

“ Verne and Buddy (what Verne called Newmie) were best friends. They were kindred spirits born within 6 months of each other and died within 6 months of each other. They knew each other from their teens and did so much together. They were both hard working and family oriented men whose home and family meant everything. As young men they used to crab, oyster, and fish net together. They did this on weekends to earn extra money for Christmas. And every Christmas they would go shopping on Christmas eve to get the best bargains and enjoy the Christmas madness. They built a boat to work together and an ice boat to have fun together. They played ball and Verne was a great softball pitcher. They enjoyed many celebrations throughout the years. Verne was always there whenever Buddy needed him. Buddy used to drive to New Jersey to visit Verne at work where they again spent time together. Even as they both became sick and Buddy could not drive, Verne would come pick him up and they would get breakfast and tool around for the day. Vern was a faithful friend to Buddy and a wonderful thoughtful person. He will be very much missed. Cheryl and I were lucky to have had such wonderful men in our lives. I am sure they are in heaven together planning their next adventure. May they be at peace

Julia Walters - December 02, 2013 at 08:21 PM

KL

“ *Kay Thompson Lister lit a candle in memory of Grady Laverne Conaway*



Kay Thompson Lister - December 02, 2013 at 01:59 PM

KL

So sorry to hear this! I will NEVER forget Verne and his time with my Dad at the boatyard - definately a very dear man!

Kay Thompson Lister - December 02, 2013 at 02:01 PM

CA

“ *I worked with Verne in the Seafood Industry for many years and learned from him what hard work and dedication truly means. His dedication to his work and mostly his family is something I will always remember about him. Verne went above and beyond to make sure everyone around him was taken care of! His love for his family was truly inspirational! He will be sadly missed by many.*

Cindy Allen

Cindy Allen - December 02, 2013 at 09:54 AM

CT

“ *Verne I knew him my whole life and I am forever grateful to have meet a father figure I never had he was my grandpops best friend he help me be the women I am today working with him also taught me how to be responsible and I'll continue to be a hard worker like him*

catherine truex - December 02, 2013 at 08:25 AM

SB

“ I have know Verne for over 30 years, working closely with him as I schedule Blount's requirements of clams each day. I was priviledged to have known him through business but better as a friend. I also had the pleasure of spending many nights at the Bay house over the years talking more about family than of work. He truly was a giver and always went out of his way to do whatever he could not only for myself but to all he had contact with. I was always amazed of his work ethic and how many hours he spent on the job taking calls all hours of the night to meet peoples needs. He had a generous heart and selfless work effort. I learned much from him about the clam industry but also in life on how to put others before yourself and will miss him greatly. For those of us in the clam industry he has left his mark and will be remembered and missed.

*Steve Blount
Blount Seafood, RI*

Stephen Blount - December 02, 2013 at 08:15 AM

GR

“ I have known Verne for over 40 years and through working together for the betterment of the seafood industry on numerous projects we became true friends. Though Verne worked for many companies and bosses he was always a man of integrity and completely loyal to his employer. He had tireless energy and often after a late night activity far from the docks he would be at the docks early in the morning to check the quality of a load of clams being unloaded. There isn't a boat captain he doesn't know, no clam trucker whose number is not in his contacts. You could call Verne at anytime and he would answer and be cheerful about it! The seafood industry as a whole and the clam industry specifically is clearly better because of his tireless efforts. There is a big hole to fill and I for one will miss Verne tremendously.

George Richardson
Buena Vista, Colorado

George Richardson - December 01, 2013 at 08:09 PM

AC

“ I had the privilege of working with Verne for a short period of time. In the two years I have known him, he captured my heart. I will never work for a man like him again, for he is irreplaceable. He was the kindest, most generous and giving man I have ever known. He put his heart into everything he did. I was blessed to have known him. My deepest sympathy to his family. He loved you all so much. He will be missed in South Jersey.

Ann Marie Colonnello - December 01, 2013 at 07:40 PM



“ You will be very missed RIP

Wendy Settle - December 01, 2013 at 06:43 PM

BW

“ Cheryl, Sherrie and Shannon, Just learned the sad news and wanted you to know that your family is in my prayers. Blessings. Betty Wood



Betty Wood - November 30, 2013 at 09:12 PM

CS

“ One of the greatest men I knew, Always had a kind word to say about everyone. Would always offer advice and help, and with a fantastic smile.. He will always be in my heart and mind. I know he will always be looking over his sisters because that is all he ever talked about.



Casey and Skeet - November 30, 2013 at 04:54 PM

CT

“ I knew Verne from the time he moved to KI from Fla. Great friend, great athlete. I have been honored to know him and his family. God bless you Cheryl and girls.

Charlie Thomas - November 30, 2013 at 10:05 AM

CW

“ Dear Cheryl, Sherri and Shannon... my heart breaks to learn this news. Having grown up so close with Lori and family, I know he was a hard working and kind man, and who loved his family very very much. When I think of each of you, that's what always first comes to mind -- FAMILY. I have warm memories of birthday parties, weddings or other gatherings, your FAMILY is very special to me. Such a joy to be around, and I can feel how deeply he will be missed. Sending special prayers and hugs today (and your families) and pray you find comfort in your many beautiful memories. Love to all.

christy ward - November 30, 2013 at 02:37 AM

LA

“ Lori Aisquith lit a candle in memory of Grady Laverne Conaway



Lori Aisquith - November 29, 2013 at 10:11 PM

LA

I have many fond memories of my Uncle Verne. I spent alot of time at his home when I was young. He was a very kind and generous man. I will never forget how he would rub his hands together real fast when something made him laugh. That always made me laugh too. Sending much love and comfort to my Aunt and my cousins.

Lori Aisquith - November 29, 2013 at 10:14 PM

SM

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Shannon Mench - November 29, 2013 at 08:10 PM

CH

Shannon you and your family are in my prays.

Charlstine

charlstine - December 01, 2013 at 11:31 AM



SUCH A LOVING PICTURE OF HIM AND HIS DAUGHTER . SORRY TO HIM SO SICK BUT OTHERWISE A GREAT PICTURE

Kathy Hyde - December 04, 2013 at 04:24 PM

DL

“ *To the family:
May the love of those around you give you strenth. And may you find comfort in the promise Jehovah God made in the Bible in that "he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neigther will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away"(Revelation 21:4) We can look forward to the time when our tears of pain will be turned into tears of joy ;when we see our loved ones again!*

Diane Larochelle - November 29, 2013 at 07:43 PM

ES

“ I will always remember changing out the main beams of the old part of the house and Verne wielding that chainsaw like an exacto know, making perfect cuts and with Dave's help, we made much quicker work of that major repair that I expected. Very smart man, very generous man, a very caring man. Glad I got to see him a couple of years ago in Sebastian, FL on one of his trips.



Earl D. Karper, Sr. - November 29, 2013 at 07:29 PM

KO

“ I hope you're having a wonderful time in Heaven, Uncle Verne, free from all of the suffering of this world. I will always remember the big hugs you had for me every time I was lucky enough to see you. You will be missed!!!!

I hope you and Jay Jay are having a great time together!!!!

Love,
Kari

Kari Oulahyane - November 29, 2013 at 07:04 PM

JM

“ *Uncle Vern you were one of the strongest, loving and caring men I ever knew besides my daddy. You will be missed so much i have so many fond memories and I will cherish them forever...I was so blessed to spend time with you a few weeks ago even knowing the end was near all you could think about was if everyone would be OK...You had no self pity you just wanted us to make sure everyone celebrates your life not mourn it. And now you are at peace with your family on the other side watching over us the same as you did when you were on earth. Love you and your family to the moon and back...*

The Pate family Skeet and all and Casey...
(Jean)

Jean Pate McNeil - November 29, 2013 at 06:40 PM



“ *Danielle Holland-Martinez lit a candle in memory of Grady Laverne Conaway*



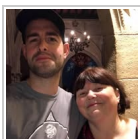
Danielle Holland-Martinez - November 29, 2013 at 06:10 PM

SM

“ At 3:51 p.m. on November 27th I lost the first man I ever loved, my daddy. I feel privileged and honored to be called his daughter. The bond we had could not be denied and am proud to say I have always been and will continue to be a "Daddy's Girl". My heart hurts terribly and the void his absence has left is large, but I find comfort in knowing he is at rest and no longer in pain. His giving heart will be missed and those that shared in his life will forever remember him. I look forward to the day when we are reunited as a family and to hug him again!!!! I love you so very much Daddy!!!!

Shannon

Shannon Mench - November 29, 2013 at 05:24 PM



“ From making my staff for my Bo Peep outfit to the kite for kite day at school, from Christmas's most only dream about to loving my son as only a "father" could...thank you Dad. By your example, we are made strong. We will take care of each other. We will help others because you would. We will talk to others and not about them because you did. We will love family and friends because we saw your life. Dad, I miss you so much and love you! I am SO proud that I was born into this family. I just wish I had longer with you. But, soon, we will be together again. I can't wait! Love, Sherri

Sherri Givens - November 29, 2013 at 05:20 PM

CC

“ To the most giving man I've ever known! A man who never met a stranger. Love, "Honey"

Cheryl Conaway - November 29, 2013 at 05:13 PM

EW

So sad to pick up the Star Democrat and read about Verne's passing. Him and Buddy will be together in heaven. Played softball with him, worked on the water with him and sold him seafood. My deepest sympathies to Cheryl and her family. One of those people that you meet in life and will never forget.

Eddie C-weed Walters

Eddie Walters - December 04, 2013 at 08:37 AM