

## Ronald Staples

Written by Sean Green

Monday, 31 December 2012 11:13 -

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BENTON - Ronald L. "Jerry" Staples departed for Heaven to be with his Lord on December 27, 2012. He was born to William and Thelma Staples on September 15, 1937 in Charlottesville, Virginia. He learned to hunt, fish and developed a love for the outdoors in this Blue Ridge Mountain community where he became an Eagle Scout. He joined the United States Air Force in 1954 and was stationed all over the world including South Korea during that first year of armistice of the Korean War and in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. He met the love his life, Norma Joyce, while stationed at Barksdale and they spent 55 wonderful years together. They idolized each other. She worshiped the water Ron walked on and looks forward to their eternal reunification. He retired from the USAF in 1975, became an expert welder and taught welding, shop and math classes in the Bossier Parish School System for twenty years. He kept in contact with many of his former students and brought fish to some of them.

He also served as a reserve volunteer deputy for the Bossier Sheriff's office for twenty years, and spent one night a week on active duty patrol.

His second home was the great outdoors where he taught his son Barry how to hunt and fish or just ride around and enjoy God's great creation. This gave him the opportunity to meet several people and make hundreds of friends. He was the best friend to many people and would go out of his way to help anyone who needed his assistance with any task. He was never selfish with his time, talents and skills when it came to building fences, piers, and many other projects.

He revived and was leader of the Boy Scout Pack in Okinawa while stationed there and was given a special award for his leadership and services.

He loved spending time with his close friends at "Opossum Creek" deer camp and hunting club in Claiborne Parish and with a special group of friends at Clark's feed store. He was a fixture at the nearby café in Benton and many other places. People and friends were very important to him and many were very fortunate to benefit from his friendship. There isn't one gravel or dirt road in Bossier Parish that he hasn't investigated or one body of water that has escaped his rod and reel. He would hunt before he had to go to work and fish afterwards.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his only child and special son Barry Edward Staples, and his sisters Jacquelyn Gilmer and Viola Morris. He is survived by his forever loving and loved wife Norma, his sister Maxine Marsh of Chester Maryland, brother-in-law Phillip Poland, sister-in-law Rhonda Rollinson and her husband Paul who was his very special friend and close hunting buddy. His loving cocker spaniels, April and Coal will miss him greatly. Coal waits by the door for his return. His many, many friends will miss him, but they will have numerous memories of joyous times with him and continue to relate the many stories he told them.

Funeral services will be at 10:00 am on Monday, December 31 at Airline Baptist Church where he was a faithful member. Brother Billie Pierce and Brother Harrell Shelton will officiate.

Visitation will be in the Airline Baptist Sanctuary from 5:00 till 7:00 Sunday evening, December 30. Graveside services will follow at Bistineau Cemetery in Heflin, Louisiana with full military honors.

Special thanks to Dr. Dan Moller, Dr. Michael Walton, Dr. Anil Veluvolu, Dr. Michael Durci, Elaine and John Byrd, good hunting buddy Al Levine, Sheriff Julian Whittington and the Bossier Parish Sheriff's office and Dr. Harvey Long.

Memorials contributions can be made to The American Heart Association or the American Cancer Society .

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