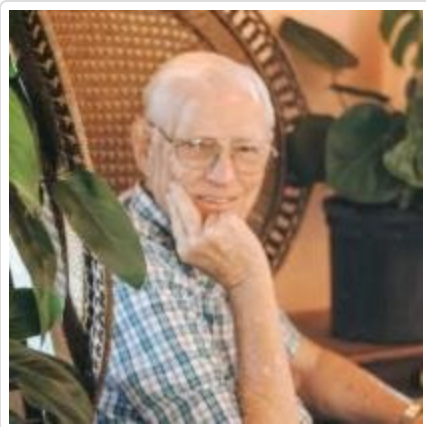




Roy E. Sanford

May 13, 1941 - January 7, 2025

Ladies and gentlemen, family, and friends,

My name is Patricia, and I have had the profound honor of knowing and loving Roy, my husband, for sixty remarkable years. Today, we gather to celebrate the life of a truly extraordinary man, a man whose compassion, friendliness, and boundless love touched each of us in ways that words can scarcely convey. I am grateful for this opportunity to share with you the essence of Roy's spirit and the indelible mark he left on our hearts.

Roy was 83 years old when he left this world, but the legacy he leaves behind is timeless. Born with a heart full of love and a spirit eager to serve, Roy dedicated his life to his family, his faith, and his community. He served honorably as an Air Force veteran, a role that filled him with pride and inspired him to honor fellow veterans at every opportunity.

For over thirty years, Roy worked diligently for the City of Lakeland, and for nearly forty years, he imparted wisdom and faith as a Sunday School teacher. His commitment to Parkway Baptist Ministry spanned more than half a century, a testament to his unwavering devotion to his faith and community.

Roy had a unique gift for turning strangers into friends within moments of meeting them. His friendly nature and compassionate spirit drew people to him, and he never missed an opportunity to share his faith, often leaving

behind a gospel track as a token of hope and inspiration. I remember fondly how he would brighten the lives of those who needed a friend, offering a shoulder to cry on, or simply listening with an open heart.

Roy's sense of humor was legendary among those who knew him. He loved to pull pranks and always had a joke ready to share, bringing laughter and joy wherever he went. And, oh, how he loved his food! After finishing a meal, he would eagerly inquire about the next one, especially curious about dessert.

Family was the cornerstone of Roy's life. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, endlessly proud of his family's accomplishments. Our annual family vacations were a highlight for him, a time to create cherished memories and celebrate the bonds that kept us close.

Roy's kind smile and loving eyes were a beacon of warmth and sincerity. As Granny used to say, "Roy would talk the horns off a Billy goat," and indeed, he could engage anyone in conversation, leaving them feeling valued and understood. His presence was a source of comfort and strength, and it is this presence we will miss most dearly.

As we reflect on Roy's life, let us carry forward his legacy of love, service, and faith. Let us remember his kindness and his unwavering dedication to those he loved. Though we mourn the loss of a remarkable man, we also celebrate the incredible life he lived and the countless lives he touched.

In closing, I share with you a simple yet profound reminder, one that Roy embodied every day: Love one another, serve with an open heart, and treasure each moment with those you hold dear. May Roy's memory be a blessing to us all, and may we find comfort in knowing that his spirit lives on in the love we share and the lives he enriched.

Thank you.

Cemetery Details

Florida National Cemetery

6502 SW 102nd Ave.
Bushnell, FL 33513

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **10**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Parkway Baptist Church
4210 Lakeland Highlands Rd.
Lakeland, FL 33813

Funeral Service

JAN **11**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Parkway Baptist Church
4210 Lakeland Highlands Rd.
Lakeland, FL 33813

Graveside with Military Honors

JAN **13**. 1:30 PM (ET)

Florida National Cemetery
6502 SW 102nd Ave.
Bushnell, FL 33513

Tribute Wall

DM

“ So very sad that I was out of town when Mr. Roy went home to heaven and that I missed his viewing and funeral. He was a wonderful man in so many ways. Parkway Baptist Church won't be the same without him.

Diane McCallister - January 13, 2025 at 12:12 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Roy E. Sanford.



January 10, 2025 at 01:55 PM

SB

“ Heaven is certainly sweeter with this man there! We have precious memories of Roy. Will always remember fondly how he would walk up and say, "You know God loves you and so do I". We love you too Roy! ❤️ Until we meet again . . .

Scott and Lisa Boyd - January 10, 2025 at 11:42 AM

DV

“ Jerry & I considered Roy & Pat some of our closest friends. We love the memories of when our kids were in school & Jeremy & Keith were best friends & the times our families got together. When we moved to WI, we so enjoyed the 2 visits you made to stay a week with us.

My sympathy to all of you & you are in my prayers. Now Pat & I are both widows & will be getting together as often as we can! Roy is with his Lord who he faithfully served.

Dianne Vegter - January 09, 2025 at 11:53 PM

CF

“ Christina, Kimberly and our families purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Roy E. Sanford.



Christina, Kimberly and our families - January 09, 2025 at 10:43 PM

CF

“ Christina, Kimberly and our families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Roy E. Sanford.

Christina, Kimberly and our families - January 09, 2025 at 10:43 PM

SB

“ We will be praying for Pat and the family. He is going to be miss for sure. He went to be with our Savior but what we learned from him stays with us. Roy , a man of God . We will remember his love for the Lord , his love for his brothers and sisters and his love for the lost souls that he was always talking to. He did not waist time to talk to everyone about his Savior and leave them a track. Jim will miss his little brother.

Sonia and Jim Bryant - January 09, 2025 at 10:17 PM

HW

“ I don't put words together like I once did, but Roy will be greatly missed. Roger and I will miss our lunchtime chatter and our competitive card game of Five Crowns with Roy's famous words of, " Is it time for dessert?" before the first game was done. Roy always listened well and blessed our hearts with his humor and his compassion. We look forward to the day when we will never again say goodbye. We are here for you, Pat (second Mamma). We love you dearly!

Hannah and Roger Williams - January 09, 2025 at 06:10 PM

JC

“ I first met Roy while in the Air Force in Spain. We were room mates for a little over two years and developed a friendship that lasted over sixty years. My wife and I enjoyed exchanging visits with Roy and Pat. During our friendship I came to admire Roy for his great faith and his love for Pat, Keith and Kari as well as his grandchildren. After the death of my wife, our friendship was not as close as it once was, but on the few occasions that we emailed or called each other, it was obvious that Roy's faith and love of family actually grew stronger. As an Air Force friend Roy helped me face a difficult situation and the death of my father. He was a source of strength and understanding then and continued to be during our long friendship. Even though we did not have much contact in recent years I am saddened that I did not do more to maintain that close friendship. Pat, your obituary of Roy was beautifully done and truly captured the good person he was. I extend my sympathies and prayers to you, Keith, Kari and all your family. May God bless you and comfort you. Jim Charlton

Jim Charlton - January 09, 2025 at 01:54 PM