



Dale Lawrence Heins

March 25, 1940 - May 31, 2025

Dale Lawrence Heins passed away on 31 May 2025 at Tavares Cornerstone Hospice & Palliative Care in Tavares, FL. He is going in search of answers to his genealogy brick walls.

Dale was born at home in River Rouge, MI to Raymond and Verna (Borio) Heins on 25 March 1940. He was the third of their 5 children. Soon after his birth, the family moved to Wyandotte, MI. When he was about 8 years old the family moved to Taylor Twp. where his father and mother built their new home. The family's 4th child was born a year or so before the move and the 5th child was born just after the move. Dale developed his work ethic early on with his father as an example. Starting with a paper route, he progressed to packing groceries in a supermarket when his school went to split sessions in his freshmen year.

The family moved to Port Austin, MI in the Thumb Area where Dale finished his last 3 years of high school. Dale spent his last two summers there managing a roller rink where he also developed an interest in electricity and electronics. Upon graduation in 1958, he joined the Navy and completed 20 years of service. After completion of basic training, he was assigned to the Naval Security Group (NSG) and was granted a Top Secret-SCI clearance. Initially working in the administrative field for his first four years; he was ordered to electronics school upon his reenlistment. Still assigned to the NSG,

upon completion of the one-year school, he was ordered to a four-month special equipment school with further assignment to Puerto Rico. Additional special equipment schooling was completed during that tour. During his military career, Dale completed over two and a half years of electronic schooling and two years of junior college. He completed junior college in Bremerton, WA with an AA in Technical Arts-Electronics and an AA in Business Management. On completion of junior college, Dale was assigned to two years exchange duty with the Canadian Forces in British Columbia as senior enlisted in charge of the US Navy attachment. He completed his last tour with NSG at NSG Headquarters, Washington, DC where he served as editor of the NSG monthly Maintenance Bulletin and implemented and managed their worldwide maintenance data collection system. Dale retired with 20 years of service.

While on his initial tour with NSG in Washington, DC Dale met and married Leinis Sue Mason who he divorced in 1969 after 7 years of marriage. While attending Naval Electronics "B" School in Great Lakes, IL he met and married Norma Roberta Emerson. He divorced her in 1983 after 13 years of marriage. Dale had a son and daughter during his first marriage and a son during his second marriage. After Dale's Navy retirement in 1978, he went to work for Assurance Technology Corporation (ATC) in Carlisle, MA. His TS-SCI clearances continued with his employment there. While working as the companies' technical writer, he completed 24 individual equipment Navy Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Manuals and one system level O&M manual during his first two years of employment. He often worked alongside the Government R&D engineers to coordinate electronic maintenance techniques while learning state-of-the-art electronics theory. Dale then transitioned into Logistic Support and program management in a multi-service military equipment development program. Initially he worked under contract to a Naval Special Programs Office to organize and manage logistic support for the four services as well as initial system deployment. Due to the amount of

travel involved in support of this project; Dale moved to ATC's Washington office and established a program support office there. Prior to his move to Washington, DC he met the love of his life, Rita Marie Bedard who was also employed by ATC. She managed ATC Reproduction subsidiary in Concord, MA. Rita moved to Washington, DC with Dale in. They were married there at the Army Chapel at Ft Belvoir, VA in 1985. Once equipment deployment commenced, he was contracted by the Air Force Special Programs Office to integrate, build, install and maintain this new system for them. The AF systems were installed worldwide. Upon successful completion of the AF contract requirements, Dale and Rita retired in 1997. Dale, age 57 years old, as a Vice President at ATC and Rita, 45 years old, as administrative staff in charge of personnel and payroll at Radian Corporation in Alexandria, VA.

Upon retirement, they sold their house in Virginia and followed their dream. While in the service and working at ATC, Dale developed a love of travel and Rv'ing. Most of his military assignments were in the U.S. but he did spend time in Iceland, Okinawa, and Canada. He traveled to Europe and islands in the Pacific in support of his Air Force contracts as part of their pre-deployment teams. He shared the benefits of this travel with Rita and took her on several trips to Europe. They worked their way through various campers until they had a truck and fifth-wheel trailer for get-a-ways from Washington. With retirement and the sale of their home and much of their belongings, they hit the road and followed the sun for seven years. While on the road, they became residents of Texas to have an address. During their time on the road, they slept in all but two states and most of the Canadian provinces. Often spending summers in Canada and once in Alaska. In 2004 they decided to get off the road so that they could continue more international travel. They sold their motorhome and moved to The Villages. Once settled in, they began traveling on river and ocean cruises, guided land tours and some free-styling on their own. Dale loved planning all of their travels and later in life felt that he should have been

a travel agent. Through the years, they traveled to Europe as far east as the Black Sea, north to the Baltic, south to the Med and across the Pacific to Asia including China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia and south to New Zealand and Australia.

Early in their RV travels, Dale and Rita became interested in genealogy and their family histories. Starting with some initial information from their aunts and uncles, they were able to travel to places where their ancestors were from for research. After settling in The Villages, Dale became more involved, joining several Special Interest Groups (SIG) of the Villages Genealogy Society (VGS). He later became a Co-coordinator of the French-Canadian and the German SIGs. After four years of Co-coordinating the German SIG; he was asked to join the VGS board and become Coordinator of all of the VGS SIGs. He did this for several years until he began his battle with cancer. While under treatment and after, he continued his research and took many of his ancestral lines back to 9th/10th great-grandparents in the late 1500's.

Dale is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Rita (Bedard) Heins of Leesburg, FL. His sons, Christopher Gale (Lani) of Davenport, FL, Derrick Heins (Dana) of Ossipee, NH and daughter, Kimberly Gale of Fredericksburg, VA. Grandsons Dominick Gale of Cyprus, Dominic Heins of ME and Teoman Gale of Davenport, FL. Also his brother, Charlie Heins (Laura) of Port Austin, MI. Dale was preceded in death by his parents, Ray and Verna, his older brother, Raymond, older sister, Barbara and his younger brother, Melvin. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

So that Dale can continue his journey after death, he will be cremated and his ashes will be spread to the winds and the sea. No memorial services will be held.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home Leesburg, Florida

Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dale Lawrence Heins*



Beyers Funeral Home - June 09, 2025 at 04:34 PM

K)

To my dad that I finally got to see years later. I will truly miss him

Kim Gale (daughter) - June 10, 2025 at 09:48 AM

JP

“ *Joanne Phinney lit a candle in memory of Dale Lawrence Heins*



Joanne Phinney - December 05, 2025 at 01:52 PM

MR

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Mary Rosenfield - June 27, 2025 at 02:53 PM

MR

I can't tell you how wonderful it was to have a boss like Dale - he was a good teacher, clear and patient, and had a great sense of humor. I learned a lot from him!

Mary Rosenfield - June 27, 2025 at 02:55 PM

MC

“ Dale & Rita, you were Tom's & my first RV friends, having met in the suburbs of Washington, DC, awaiting Tom's final buyout date to arrive so we could begin our fulltime RV travels. Our paths crossed many times over the years of our fulltiming adventures. Dale's interest and enthusiasm in Family History research is what sparked Tom's interest, and later, mine. You both were, and continue to be, a great influence on me. I'll always remember Dale's great smile and fun conversations. Thank you for being our friend! ~Marilyn Clark

Marilyn P Clark - June 13, 2025 at 10:59 AM

AU

“ Sending my condolences. Uncle Dale will surely be missed. I always loved hearing stories of the many travels and adventures over the years. The Christmas cards and letters were always very special to receive. May he rest in peace.

*Much love,
Audra Heins*

Audra - June 10, 2025 at 07:44 PM

CG

“ To my father. Many years we spent apart and many years we searched for each other. A lot of questions were asked and answered by both of us. I am blessed to have shared time with you and to know more about you. Your stories of our family history and of life itself did always captivate me.



I am glad you had the pleasure of meeting and Teo & Dom. Like me, they were amazed with your jokes, playfulness and laughter. They also learned things from you which they will keep in their hearts.

Thank you finding me. Thank you for making my life complete after years emptiness. If you don't mind, when I look up in the heavens, I want to ask you questions and get your opinion on things. Rest well my father.i love you.

Christopher Gale - June 10, 2025 at 07:48 AM

JH

“ Johan Gillies Heins lit a candle in memory of Dale Lawrence Heins



Johan Gillies Heins - June 02, 2025 at 09:10 PM

RJ

“ To my dear namesake and niece, Rita, I offer my most sincere condolences. Forty years shared will never be forgotten!

Rita J Joyce - June 02, 2025 at 07:57 PM

JH

“ Sending my sincere condolences to Rita and all of their children and grandchildren. Dale was my late husband, Greg Heins's first cousin. We kept in touch by phone, on line and by mail. We had many similar interests, Including traveling and genealogy of our families. As I read Dales obituary I see that he was blessed with a full and exciting life, Rest in Heavenly Peace Dale. Strength and Love to all the family from myself and Greg's remaining siblings. Bob, Connie, Bonnie & Vickie, 🤔💋🕊️🙏👼 Love Johan

Johan Gillies Heins - June 02, 2025 at 07:16 PM

MK

“ Karen and I first met them at Robins Nest RV park in Florida. They came to the ice cream social, and were looking for a place to sit. We had room at our table so motioned for them to join us. It was in Jan 2003 and we have been friends ever since. RIP Dale and say hi to Karen for me.

Mike Kerr - June 02, 2025 at 06:20 PM

CR

“ My Dear cousin Rita, I so enjoyed the Christmas letter Dale sent out yearly. I loved nearly about the adventures you both loved taking ! All the hard work you both endured putting the geology Family history together and sharing it with us! My heart truly aches for you Rita and the whole family 🤔💋📍 Live your Cousin Cathy



Cathy Renaud - June 02, 2025 at 04:52 PM