



Dewey Alfred Waddell

March 23, 1948 - January 26, 2017

Obituary of Dewey Waddell

Dewey Alfred Waddell, 68, of Leesburg, Florida passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at home under hospice care, surrounded by his loving family and friends. Dewey was welcomed into heaven after a courageous 1 1/2 year battle against liver cancer. He was born in Springville, Alabama on March 23, 1948 to Milton Aubrey Waddell and Mary Imogene Rowe Waddell. He moved with his family to Leesburg at 2 years old, graduated from Leesburg High School in 1967, and later received his associates degree from Lake-Sumter Community College. On May 22, 1968 Dewey married the love of his life, Laura Margaret Woodward. They eloped to Cairo Georgia after a short courtship and without the consent of their parents. Laura's father was concerned about how they would make a living being so young. Dewey assured him they would "live on love"! Well, that they did, and it didn't take long until Dewey had gained his in-laws approval, love and admiration. With the help of Laura's parents, Dewey and Laura founded M&C Pipe and Supply, Inc in 1973. Together, Dewey and Laura created a family and circle of friends that were blessed by their endless generosity, joy for life, and immense love. Dewey was an adoring father to his daughter and son-in-law Deann and Tim Coop of St. Petersburg and his son and business partner Dewey "Dal" Waddell, Jr. and his girlfriend Lisa Gasque Bell. He was affectionately known as "Big Daddy" to his six grandchildren: Brandon, Connor

and Carson Coop; Dewey "Trey" III and wife Kaitlyn, Tyler and Maggie Waddell; and his great granddaughter Allison Waddell. He was also known as "Uncle Big Dew" to his nieces and nephews, with whom he had very special relationships: Steve Waddell and wife Kathy of Graceville, Chris Waddell of Graceville, Kim Waddell of Leesburg, Dena McKenna and husband Mike of St. Petersburg, Robyn Mitchell and husband Royce of Edgewater, Eric Lackey and wife Natalia of Tampa, Charles and wife Kristin Struth of Destin, and Jessica Struth of St. Petersburg. He is also survived by his sister-in-law and brother-in-law Charlotte and Mike Struth and his loving and faithful companion Barnelia Woodward. He is preceded in death by Laura, his loving wife of 42 years, his parents, and his brother Steven Lynn Waddell.

Dewey loved being surrounded by nature. Two of his favorite places to soak it all in were deep in the woods of Steinhatchee at Po' Boys Hunt Camp and on the beaches of New Smyrna. He was a highly spiritual and peaceful man. People were drawn to his kind, gentle spirit and delighted in his lighthearted sense of humor. He dedicated his life to relationships. Dewey always saw the good in every human being he encountered. Whether it was an old schoolmate, a business acquaintance, or a stranger in a check-out line, he could make a connection. He had a collection of friends from every generation and walk of life and treasured each and every one. As one friend said, "to know him was to love him".

Memorial service will be held on Saturday February 4th at 2pm at St. James Episcopal Church, with a Reception immediately following at his son's home (Dal Waddell), 801 south 9th St., Leesburg.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests contributions to the American Cancer Society (americancancersociety.org/) or the American Diabetes Foundation (Donations Diabetes Org). Online condolences may be left at www.beyersfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home, Leesburg, FL.

Tribute Wall

JD

“ We are very sorry for your loss. He will be missed by us all. It was an honor to call him friend. Our prayers are with you all.

Jeff and Nancy Dixon - February 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ Dal, I am sorry to hear about your dad. He was always nice to me when I came into the store. Sorry for your loss, Phil

Phil Mitchem - February 02, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ The news of Dewey's death brought back a lot of memories. I moved to Leesburg at the start of my sophomore year of high school. Being the new kid was not new to me since I had moved about 22 times at that point. Sometimes it's hard to make friends especially when you're as brash as I was at that age. But Dewey was a guy that just made friends easily. I remember that little sideways smile he had and that distinct chuckle that was uniquely Dewey's. When I was around him I was lifted up, he was not a negative or moody person. He just had a fun-loving personality and we enjoyed many good times together. Remembering back, those were times of immense upheaval in our countries history. The assassination of our president and other political and social leaders, the rioting and burning of cities, and of course the Vietnam War which we were eligible to be drafted into. In the middle of all that here was Dewey, the first person I knew of in our class to get married. Needless to say I was very surprised when he told me he had gotten married. So for Dewey it was time to put away childish things, set down roots and start building a life. From the obituary it seems that Dewey built a wonderful life full of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I was a rolling stone and so I get to share in most of that which many of you did in Dewey's life. But the time that I did share, at such a transformative part of my life, leaves the sweet taste of a good friend which I will always remember with fondness and a smile on my face.

Richard Sprayberry - February 01, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ Haven't seen Dewey since the last reunion I attended many years ago. He was always such a nice guy both in high school and as an adult. So sorry to hear of his passing. Many prayers to the family.

Charles Lockwood - January 31, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ *Just a great guy! You always felt better after being around him.*

Steve Barley - January 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *Thoughts and prayers to his entire extended family.*

Bill Hayes - January 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ *Mr. Waddell is in the arms of the Angels.*

Kim Doyle Anderson - January 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ *So sorry for your lose. Trust in God to see you through your sorrows. "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-26 NASB. May he rest in Peace*

Benny L. Tyre - January 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ *Having graduated high school with Dewey in 1967, I was saddened to hear of his passing. At the same time, there was joy in reading his lovely obituary and the tributes to what this man did with his life. I remember his sweet and kind spirit in high school and can tell he continued to walk the walk in his life. Laura and Dewey were special to so many of us in high school and I know they were rejoicing to be reunited again in heaven. My condolences to their family but I pray your wonderful memories will sustain you in the future as you remember this life who touched yours in so many ways. God bless.*

Judy Crosby Davis - January 29, 2017 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ *What I remember about Dewey is the big smile that he always had. When I was Golf Coach at Leesburg High in 1987 and 1988 I had the privilege to know Dewey. Dewey would help transport the golfers to the away matches. In addition to transporting the kids, he would always make sure they were well feed before arriving at the away golf course. Dewey's heart was larger than any Par 5 we ever played.*

Pete Bush - January 29, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *Dewey was special. He was one of the sweetest men I have ever known, always welcoming and attentive to all and a wonderful Grandfather to the grandchildren we share. I am truly sorry for all family and friends in your loss but I know you have wonderful memories to sustain you. Love.*

Martha Haworth - January 29, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *Dewey's smile would immediately put you at ease... Thanks so much for all the great memories at Silver Lake. Rest in peace and hit em straight.*

Mike Flanagan - January 29, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ *So sorry..... His humor will definitely be missed.... My thoughts are with you...*

Tim Sennett - January 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ *What a beautiful tribute to Dewey. He was one of a kind. We are so sorry for your loss but know that he is where he wants to be right now.*

Sparkman and Debbie Baas - January 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ *I will treasure our memories until I join you and our loved ones in heaven!*

Aunt Margie Rowe Bedsole - January 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ *Deann and family, how blessed you are to have had such an amazing man in your lives and in your family! I only met him a couple of times- he impressed me with his quiet sense of humor. Peace and love to you all.*

Chelley Tighe - January 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *Dewey Alfred Waddell*

Bill Hall - January 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *My very good buddy you will be missed*

Bill Hall - January 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ *Prayers to his family. RIP Dewey.*

Rick Stoer - January 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Deann and family, Condolences on your dad's death. We met a few times - on your front steps at Halloween and he was funny and kind. I know him better through your stories, Deann. Of how he loved his family, of how he built his life with your mom and you and Dal. It's a tough time and I'm sorry you are going through it. Hugs. M

Mary Anna Murphy - January 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Our sympathies go out to the Waddell family, to Deann and Dal, and the extended family. Dewey was such a kind soul and loved his family so very much. May we rejoice his life and may he rest in peace with Laura by his side. Love and big hugs to all, The McGrath Family

Keeley McGrath - January 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Please know my heart is so heavy we went to school together. I had not seen him in years. I will always remember his sweetness to everyone. My prayers are with his family at this time. Doelene

Doelene Brown - January 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ We will keep "kissing the baby" for you.

Stephen Pauley - January 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SI

“ Scott and I feel so blessed to have known this wonderful man. Dewey you had such an impact on the community. We will cherish all those memories, ❤️

Scott and Beth Irving - January 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ I am so sorry for your loss. "Precious in the sight of The Lord is the death of his Saints." God bless you in this time of sorrow.
Respectfully, Stan Gause

Stan Gause - January 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ We are so sorry for the loss of Big Dew. He will be missed by many. We r sorry we won't be able to make the service as we will be out of town. Sincere sympathy for the family

Sam and Susan Rixie - January 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ So sorry for your loss. We're proud to have known him. He was a great man.

Martha and Denny Bradford - January 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Dewey Alfred Waddell

January 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ ###GESTURE###

Bill Hall - January 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM