



Richard W. "Fread" Bilton Sr.

July 5, 1936 - July 7, 2023

Richard W. "Fread" Bilton Sr., 87, of Umatilla, FL passed away Friday, July 7, 2023 at home, surrounded by his loving family. Richard was born and raised in East Longmeadow, MA to Albert E. Bilton and Elizabeth (St. Francis) Bilton Weeden. He graduated from Trade High School in Springfield, MA.

Richard was a Master Electrician by trade. He worked for several electricians and companies as building superintendent before retiring from Phoenix Insurance Company in Greenfield, MA. He owned and operated Bilton's Christmas Tree Farm in Greenfield, MA for many years before retiring to Umatilla, FL. Richard was incredibly creative and could build, fix or create anything he put his mind to. He built several homes, pieces of furniture and other items for our homes. One of his prized signature creations was the many hand-carved wooden boots given to friends and family.

Along with woodworking Richard enjoyed long rides through the countryside of Vermont, New Hampshire and the Carolinas. His son taught him to fly his "Grasshopper" plane and he enjoyed flying for several years. He loved animals, having an innate ability to train dogs, a pig and even a crow. Lucy was his last loving canine constant companion who misses him very much. She rode in his truck and golf carts and watched over him for 11 years.

Richard leaves behind his son Richard W. Bilton Jr. and wife Melanie of

Umatilla who cared for him for many years, daughter Lee Anne Mailhot and husband John of Somers, CT, grandchildren Elizabeth Davis (Augustus), James Bilton (Maegan), Jamie and CJ Mailhot and great grandchildren Jett, Bronwynn, Gus, Cameron and Dylan. He also leaves his sister Judith Delaney of Westfield, MA., a niece, nephews and very dear friend Edith Stepp.

Richard was predeceased by his parents, brothers Robert and Albert and infant sister Diane.

Services will be at the convenience of the family.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, Florida.

Tribute Wall

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“*Dick was a wonderful person who enjoyed living and people. He was always there to give advice and a shoulder to lean on when needed. I will always remember taking my children to the tree farm to cut a Christmas tree and going for a ride on the hay wagon. I will always cherish the hand carved boot he gave me. I will always remember him. Norma P, a friend from Greenfield.*

Norma L Patten - August 04, 2023 at 08:27 PM