



Clyde Gabbard

January 19, 1924 - April 8, 2020

Clyde Gabbard, age 96, of Hamilton passed away Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at home. He was born January 19, 1924 in Hamilton to Benjamin H. and Susie (Abner) Gabbard. Clyde was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years Betty and son Eugene (Inky). He is survived by his daughters Donna Harbrecht and Linda (Bill) Miller, 6 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, 13 great great grandchildren, cousin Louie Gabbard and sister-in-law Barbara Loschiavo. Clyde graduated from Hamilton High in 1942. He was a self-employed contractor and owner of Clyde Realty. He served in The United States Marine Corps in WW II. He was a member of Jacksonburg United Methodist Church, Fort Hamilton Chapter NO. 568 Order of Eastern Star, Washington Lodge #17 F & AM, and Fraternal Order of Eagles. There will be a celebration of life at Jacksonburg United Methodist Church with Pastor Wes Souder officiating at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Jacksonburg United Methodist Church, 4654 Middletown-Oxford Road, Middletown, OH 45042, and Hospice of Hamilton, 1010 Eaton Avenue, Hamilton, Ohio, 45013. Online condolences are available at www.weigelfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

“ We lost a hero!

Weeping my last through the night, but joy cometh in the morning. This morning we lost a good man, he was a brother, a husband, a father, grandfather, great grandfather, he was friend and a hero to so many. Clyde Gabbard was born in Hamilton Ohio January 19, 1924, this life reads as would a great novel, telling a story of love, heroism, triumph, with loss and tragedy sprinkled in. His family was not well off when he was growing up in the mist of the Great Depression. After high school he joined the United States Marine Corps, and went off to fight for his country. He served in the South Pacific theatre during the war, where he was stationed at Bougainville for most of his time there with few short stints on other islands. One time when I ask him what he did he commented “I wasn’t a hero I just worked on planes,” he primarily worked on the Douglas SBD-6, “I’d work on the planes then they’d fly off and bomb the shit out of the Japanese victory gardens, then they’d come back and I’d work on them again.”

He married a lady he’d met in an ice cream shop in Hamilton, Betty Gabbard was by his side through thick and thin. Together they raised 3 children, Linda, Donna, and Eugene. Eugene like his father served his country, but in the United States Navy, unfortunately he would lose his life, in the parking lot of Hamilton Plaza in 1970 at the hand of a man who was on drugs and shot him over a parking spot. After returning from World War II, Clyde served his community while making a living in the town where he was born. He started a small business, Clyde Gabbard Realty, and build affordable homes for middle class Americans. He built houses all over Hamilton and was even able to name some of the streets after his children. This provided him a decent living, and he was able to retire to Florida, where he would build the last house him and Betty would live in.

They lived together in Florida, and enjoyed going to garage sales and flea markets, where they shared a love for everything antique. They were inseparable, with the exception of Clyde’s trips to the golf course, and Betty’s trips to the hair salon. You could find them every weekend at their booth at the flea market, laughing, loving, and enjoying times with the people of the community that would come to the market. This was their life until a fall that took the life of his lovely wife. They had just finished a meal together and was walking to the car, and as Clyde let go of her hand to open the car door for her, she fell and hit her head, she would not recover. He was so devastated by this that at her funeral I just knew he wouldn’t last without her by his side. Boy was I wrong.

Over the last few years Linda and Donna have sacrificed countless days, months and years to make sure that their dad was taken care of. Even spending months in Florida away from their families so that he could live out his final years, in his home. A few years ago because of his failing health he had to relocate to Ohio only a few miles from the town where he was born, he lived out his final days. This morning at 8:08, a husband was reunited with his wife, a father was reunited with his son, and heaven gained another angle from the Greatest Generation. Please pray for our family, and specifically my mom Linda and my Aunt Donna. Love you Grandpa Gabbard!

PG

“ Donna I am so sorry to hear about your Dad. I just happened to read it. I know you were very close to him and will really miss him. I lost my Dad in 2007 and it was very hard. I pray for you and your family. You were very lucky to have had him for so long.

Prayers,
Patty Griessmann

patty griessmann - April 11, 2020 at 09:19 AM

LG

“ Clyde (and his wife, Betty) were truly wonderful people. Clyde and his older sisters Audrey and Gladys who preceded Clyde in death were wonderful nieces and nephew to my parents and cousins to my sisters and me. We held them in high esteem, for they were such tremendous people honoring family, country and God. We loved Clyde, his sisters and their families. Clyde will be missed immensely.

Louis Gabbard - April 09, 2020 at 11:04 PM

JM

Although I only met Clyde and his beautiful wife, Betty late in their life it didn't take long to find out what wonderful , kind, generous and loving people they were! Clyde was always there for others and the strong and loving husband and father! Clyde will be greatly missed by all who knew him!

Joyce Miller - April 10, 2020 at 06:28 PM

FM

Linda, Bill and all your dear family.. I am so sorry for your loss. You have been blessed with sweet memories and a long life that you enjoyed.. May the days ahead been times of sweet reflection and peace.
Love and prayers to all... Faith

Faith Miller - April 10, 2020 at 07:09 PM

KM

Linda and Donna, I am so sorry for your loss. He sure was a good guy who lived a good life. He was also blessed to have two daughters who looked after him so lovingly in his later years, allowing him to always be surrounded by family until it was his time. He will be missed.

Kristi M.

Kristi McClary - April 12, 2020 at 08:18 AM