


Benjamin E. Grey, Jr.

PORTSMOUTH - Benjamin "Ben" Grey, Jr (86) passed away peacefully at home on Nov. 24, 2016. His family is very thankful for the long and full life which he enjoyed.



Born in Clyde, Ohio, Ben was raised on a family farm where he developed his considerable work ethic and hunting skills during the Great Depression. Like many of his generation, he served his country during the Korean War with a 4-year tour of duty on the U.S.S. Mississippi, where he continued to master the printing skills he acquired as an apprentice at the Clyde Enterprise newspaper. Ben was employed by the Chesapeake Public Schools for 36 years as Graphics Coordinator and vocational instructor. During his career, Ben became a well-known contributor to several printing trade journals, a consultant to the industry, and a sought-after instructor of seminars on in-plant printing. He received many awards for contributions to the industry including the In-Plant Management Association's Industry Leader of the Year in 1989. Ben was an outdoor enthusiast and quite a marksman; he also had a passion for antique prints, photography and music. After his retirement, he converted his expertise on Jazz and the Big Band Era into a traveling musical presentation that brought joy to many residents of retirement communities throughout the Tidewater area. He was also an active member of the Suffolk chapters of both the Moose Lodge and the Izaak Walton League.

During Ben's years in the Navy, he met his future wife, Mary Patricia Linehan, at a USO function where she volunteered with the Girls Service Organization. After his discharge, they married and settled in Portsmouth where they raised a family. Ben was predeceased by Mary Pat in 1982, and by his longtime partner, Joan Rimasse, in January of this year. He is survived by children (Anne Grey, Ben Grey, III, and Vicki Davis), his sister (Carol Grey), as well as granddaughters (Kathleen and Natalie Davis) and nephews (Bruce and Brian Liem).

Ben's life will be celebrated in a private gathering of family and close friends, and his ashes will be buried at sea in a Navy committal ceremony. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Ben's name to the Suffolk-Nansemond Chapter of the IWLA (Izaak Walton League of America), P.O. Box 351, Suffolk, VA 23439.