



Arden Spook Skelton

January 12, 2010

Arden Craig "Spook" Skelton, 65 passed away on Tuesday Jan. 12, 2010. He was a native of La Jolla, CA and a graduate of Sparks NV High School. He retired as an E8 in the USMC, serving his country proudly for 23 years including time in Vietnam. Spook was an avid, wildlife photographer and taught photography at TTC and Craven Community College. He was a docent for the Virginia Zoo.

Spook is survived by his wife of 36 years, Jane Caffee Skelton; sister, Sharon Peters and husband Herb of Fallon, NV; sister-in-law JoAnn Caffee; brother-in-law, Wayne Caffee and wife, Sharon; nieces and nephews, Peggy Bukner and husband, Michael, Bobby Reed and wife, Jen, Scott Caffee and wife, Jennifer, Mark Caffee and wife, Theresa, and Joshua Caffee; 9 great-nieces and nephews; he also leaves behind many devoted cousins and special friends. He was predeceased by his mother, Lee Musick, father, John Thomas Skelton and his wife, Marge

A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday by his very special friend Rev. Teresa Holloway in Loving Funeral Home, Churchland Chapel. Burial will be private.

The family suggest memorial contributions to Colington United Methodist Church P.O. Box 3425 Kill Devil Hill, NC 27948.

Tribute Wall



“ To Arden's Family:

Although this message is more than a year after Arden's passing, I felt a need to send a quick note. Based on his profile, this MUST be the same Arden Skelton my wife and I had the pleasure of knowing as a friend when stationed in the Phillipines during the Vietnam era. We shared many great memories as well as his car, and although we lost touch after going our separate ways, I've often thought of him, but never took the time to follow up.

He was a good person indeed.

Jan and Gerry Foye###imported-begin###Gerry Foye###imported-end##

May 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I just found out Spook passed away. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

###imported-begin###Lori Sherwood###imported-end##

January 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Arden was a joy to have in our office and always brought a smile to my face. He brought in his pictures for us to look at and would amaze us with his detail and beauty. He had a wonderful talent.

Jane, we hope to still hear from you, you both have been a blessing and a pleasure in my life. He will be missed. Sincerely, Tabitha Bostwick, PCC - Dr. Tad Grenga.###imported-begin###Tabitha Bostwick###imported-end##

January 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ So saddened to hear of Spook's passing. He photographed me in the 80's and those photographs are still some of my favorites. He was such a talented and energetic man. You have our deepest sympathy, we will keep you in our prayers!

*Leesa Hartley Wheeler &
Esther Robinson##imported-begin##Leesa Wheeler##imported-end##*

January 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Jane,

I am so sorry for your loss. Arden was my cousin. We were together in the early years of our growing up, but we were not in touch later on. I hear about you guys from Sharon. My memories of him were always that he was such a tease and the name spook brought back a name I hadn't heard in many years. Arden will always have a place in my heart along with all the memories.

My best to you,

Penny##imported-begin##PENNY GREENE##imported-end##

January 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ The news of Arden's passing was received at my office with great sorrow. The fact that this sorrow was shared by all of the staff who had come to know him for so many years did not diminish the pain of learning about his passing. His unrelenting enthusiasm even in the face of an insurmountable condition has served to inspire us. He was a man, unlike any other, possessing a singular personality which embodied so many talents most of which he played down humbly and that shall not be forgotten. "Semper Fi" seems to fit the occasion well for his "character" as it too shall not be forgotten. Jane, you are in our prayers.##imported-begin##Tad Grenga MD and staff##imported-end##

January 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ He was a true hero to many. He leaves shoes that can never be filled. He made this world a better place.
##imported-begin##Howard S Cohen##imported-end##

January 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ see ya around man##imported-begin##Bobby Reed##imported-end##

January 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Jane,
We are so very sorry to hear of Spook's passing. We are keeping you and your family in our prayers.
##imported-begin##Carole Mayou and Family##imported-end##

January 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Spook is the kind of VERY special person that you can never forget.*

Spook never meet a stranger, and would give the shirt off his back to anyone that needed it. He would make whom ever he was speaking to feel special.

He always had the ability to make you laugh, regardless of the situation.

I had the pleasure to work with and call YOU a friend, and my life is fuller because of this time I spent with YOU.

I am sure you are in a better place and you are soaring with the same Eagles that you spent so much time capturing on film!

May the sun and wind always be at your back....Good bye good friend.

Steve###imported-begin##Steve & Cathy Haynes###imported-end##

January 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *We were blessed to be Spook's friends. God gave us 30 plus years together and memries that will be with us forever. Jane we love you and your family. God Bless, Jack and Gloria*

###imported-begin##Jack and Gloria Bunting###imported-end##

January 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Jane and Family,
I will always miss my brother as I knew him when we were both younger. Thank you all for giving him the family and life he wanted to live. Because I can't be with you in person, I am there in spirit and in prayer. Love to you all.##imported-begin##Sharon K. Peters##imported-end##

January 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I never had the pleasure of meeting Spook in person, we spoke online. From the moment I met him, almost two years ago, I was amazed at what a kind and courteous man he was. He always seemed to put everyone before him, helping them in any way that he could.

Spook and I were both ill and he was a great source of comfort and courage as I battled my own illness. When I felt like there was no hope, all I had to do was speak to Spook to see that I was entirely wrong. I last spoke with him about a month ago and he told us he was not doing good but still insisted he would be back to us soon. He was a positive person until the end I'm sure, and I know he didn't want any of us to suffer because of him.

I will forever remember this most wonderful man, the hand to hold through the darkest times of your life, the strength to guide your heart home. Thank you for all the many wonderful things you did for me Spook.##imported-begin##Michelle Sensenich##imported-end##

January 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I first met Spook in January of 1986 at Tidewater Community College. I was a photo student of his for the next ten years. Was not sure how to take him initially. See he was just retired from the Marine Corps and was very frank on his opinions. It was very funny to hear his discussions with fellow classmates. Jane he usually won them but I think he had trouble on the home front getting his way so to speak. Thanks for your help. I doubt I or anyone else could control him. See he was a man's man. I ate it up. It was so wonderful to be around someone like him.

Eventually he " mellowed ". Everyone could see his true passion for life and photography. I can tell you in my eight years of college and dental school no one impressed me more than Spook. He helped me grow as a photographer and person. I also learned to observe people and nature more. Thinking visually was a new nuance for me. He had the advantage there but was so willing to share his knowledge and talents. Eventually I caught on. After two years of classes he actually liked one of my photos. Think he placed one or two of mine in in your house. No one could imagine the great feeling this gave me.

I took his color-printing class three different times. He thought I was crazy. My wife kept asking why I would get home so late. My response was Spook was very dedicated. He did not leave his night classes early like many professors. My wife thought otherwise. I told here he invited me to his house many times to see his color printing lab. She defintely doubted what I was saying. Probably thought he was some hottie with a funny made up name. Whatever...

Through the years I always would run things by Spook before coming to a decision not that I had no idea but he knew so much more. Jane you had great patience with my constant phone calls at all hours of the day.

He just could think so well outside of the box. He was even great for the U.S. economy. I bought enough photo equipment over the years

to retire a millionaire. Just kidding...

I will miss him dearly as so will many, many other former students of his. He got my mind and heart. Hard to believe such a tough guy Marine could do that to me.

God I thank you so much for bringing this wonderful man in my life. I promise to never forget the joy and life skills he taught me. Even upon my dying bed, I will never forget you Spook.

Thanks for everything. You're the greatest person I ever met on this planet.....

Your friend forever....

Charlie

##imported-begin##Charles Wesley##imported-end##

January 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Being a student first and then a friend Spook was my mentor and I have been lucky enough to make a living in photography the last twenty years. I was going to quit college heading into the second semester and signed up for an elective class in photography. We had so much fun I stayed in school and eventually graduated. The hours that Spook gave to his students were long and his energy was exciting. Field trips, help buying equipment ,loaning equipment, the photo club, trade shows and so much more. He never liked when I cleaned the coffee pot in the lab as the coffee would never taste the same again. He was like that with so much. I will miss him but have great memories for ever. Jane thanks for understanding his passion and he loved you the most. He would want to buy the next new camera out but he would say I have to talk to Jane. He would end up with the next new camera. You gave him alot of support. He touched so many lives and he will never be forgotten. Rest in peace Spook###imported-begin##David Morse###imported-end##*

January 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Jane,

I can't believe Spook has passed. I was shocked when I received a call from Charles Wesley. I had no idea Spook was this gravely ill?

I want to give you my sincere and heartfelt condolences on Spook's passing. Both Charles and I couldn't believe this has happened. Spook was a downright decent human, and if anyone deserves recognition from God for making a difference in this life, it is he. Spook touched so many lives and anyone that took classes from him grew to love the man for his passion and sense of humor. Spook's service to his country is something I will always appreciate. He was a good Marine and never got enough credit for his hard work in the intelligence community.

Spook made a positive difference in my life and the lives of many others. When he could have been critical of me, he instead made me feel like I was worth something, and gave me encouragement to keep on going.

Spook's passion for photography made him the best teacher I've ever had. It was so much fun to take his classes; he really made learning interesting and easy. I always looked forward to going to Spook's classes. Looking back now, his classes were a great joy to be part of, and everyone benefited from Spook's extensive knowledge in photography. I like being there because Spook was just plain fun to be around. If you had never met Spook and were taking one of his classes, it didn't take long to realize what a great person we had in our teacher.

Now that he's gone, I wish I could turn back the clock and spend more time with him. Isn't that always the case? You never know how good something is until it is gone.

I will always cherish the memories of Spook. He was my friend and colleague. I will miss him terribly, and never ever forget the good times we had together. I feel as though I have lost a brother and the sadness I feel is almost overwhelming.

Wherever you are Spook, I love you my good friend, we will miss having your presence on this planet. Our world was a much better place with you in it.

I want to thank you Jane. You were kind enough to share your husband with us, I for one appreciate it, and I know the rest of us do as well. We were all fortunate enough, due to your kindness to be allowed to spend time with him and get to know the kind and gracious person that he was.

Pete Parker

##imported-begin##Pete Parker##imported-end##

January 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“*In memory of my dear friend Spook. Spook is a wonderful friend who will never be forgotten. He was always tender hearted, giving, and encouraging to everyone. He was very passionate about anything he ever undertook. My life has been empacted by his friendship in more ways than I can describe here. My prayers go out to the family who obviously loved him greatly.*

*Spook, you are and will be missed,
Jim*

##imported-begin##Jim Pauley##imported-end##

January 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM