



Gyerl Bernard May

February 17, 2025

Mr. Gyerl Bernard May, age 80, of Wilkesboro, NC passed away on Monday, February 17, 2025, at his home.

Gyerl was born in Portsmouth, VA to the late Frances Keys May and Henry Leonard May. He was an Army Veteran of Vietnam, honorably serving his country from 1968-1971, "B" troop, 7th Armored Squadron/1st Aviation Brigade Cavalry - Attack Helicopter - Vinh Long, Vietnam. Upon his return to the U.S., he worked as a Machinist at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, and completed his civil service career at the Portsmouth Naval Hospital as a Contract Administer. After retirement, he committed his energy to numerous projects, including membership in Stonewall Camp #380, and James B. Gordon Camp - Sons of Confederate Veterans, Portsmouth Area Civil War Roundtable, Western Branch Athletic Club of Chesapeake, VA, and Cedar Grove Cemetery Foundation of Portsmouth, VA, where he was often found researching veterans and serving as Chair of the Restoration committee. He authored two books, his first on veterans of Portsmouth Cedar Grove Cemetery and a second book "Civil War Soldiers with ties to Wilkes County North Carolina".

He was preceded in death by his father, Henry Leonard May (1957), his mother, Frances Keys May Waddell (2016), his stepfather Rudd Morgan Waddell (2007) and his wife Rebecca Lauderback May (2021).

Gyeral is survived by his son, Ryan May and wife Sally of Mechanicsville, VA; daughter Amber May of Portsmouth, VA; daughter Stephanie May Chandler and husband Greg of Smithville, MO; stepsister, Vicky Waddell Holbrook; seven grandchildren, McKenna May and Landrey May (Ryan), Breonna May, Jaylyn May, and Tycen May (Amber), Patrick Windsor, Megan Windsor, (Stephanie) and special friends, Debbie May-Beal, and Verona Parker Williams.

In Lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to: Portsmouth Cedar Grove Cemetery Fund c/o – Southeast VA Community Foundation 1435 Crossways Blvd. Suite 303 Chesapeake, VA 23320 or the Wilkes Heritage Museum – PO Box 935 Wilkesboro, NC 28697.

Memorial services will be held Friday, March 14, 2025, at Loving Funeral Home in Portsmouth, VA. The family will receive friends at 1pm with Service to begin at 2pm.

Previous Events

A Visitation Celebrating His Life

MAR 14. 1:00 PM - 1:55 PM (ET)

Loving Funeral Home Churchland Chapel
3225 Academy Ave
Portsmouth, VA 23703

Memorial service

MAR 14. 2:00 PM (ET)

Loving Funeral Home Churchland Chapel
3225 Academy Ave
Portsmouth, VA 23703

Tribute Wall

SR

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



shane m reason - March 07, 2025 at 11:19 PM

AA

“ Alicia Ames lit a candle in memory of Gyerol Bernard May



Alicia ames - March 05, 2025 at 08:42 PM