



Henry Samuel Earl Jr.

January 19, 2023

Henry Samuel “Sam” Earl Jr., 92, passed away peacefully in his home on January 19, 2023. Sam loved life, but he loved Joan, his bride of almost 70 years, more. He was a loving husband and a wonderful father, father-in-law, and grandfather. In addition to Joan, he leaves behind 2 children, Henry Samuel Earl III and his wife Cynthia of Newport News, VA and Sherrie Earl Bartku and her husband Jon of Chesapeake, VA, 3 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. His grandchildren are Henry Samuel Earl IV and his wife Heather and their daughters Annabelle and Amelia of Richmond, VA; James Michael Earl and his wife Errin of Queens NY and Elaine Bartku Thurman and her husband Thomas and their son Aubrey of Hardy, VA.

Sam was born and educated in Newport News, VA and attended VA TECH and UVA. He worked at NASA as an engineer for 35 years, retiring in 1985. and then turned his passion for restoring antique clocks and furniture into a second vocation. He and Joan lived in and renovated a 200-year-old house in Smithfield, VA, which they enjoyed for 40 years. He and Joan were also partners with 2 other couples owning and operating the Isle of Wight Inn in Smithfield for several years. Sam also enjoyed sailing, painting, woodcarving, woodworking, flying model aircraft, camping and traveling. He was a jack of all trades and a master of many, and was known as “Mr. Fix it”, inventor, mechanical wizard, “man of steel”, “Tic-toc Doc”, and “Energizer Bunny”. He was extremely thrifty and referred to himself as “the original energy miser”.

Sam loved to joke around and socialize, which endeared him to everyone he met.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday February 4, 2023 at New Creation United Methodist Church in Chesapeake, VA at 2 pm, with visitation the hour before. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the American Parkinson's Disease Association, Virginia Chapter or Virginia State Parks.

Thank you to Suncrest Hospice, especially Shelly, Beth and Crystal and the staff of Harmony House of Harbour View Assisted Living for all of their care, love and compassion.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 4. 1:00 PM (ET)

New Creation United Methodist Church
4320 Bruce Road
Chesapeake, VA 23321

Celebration of Life

FEB 4. 2:00 PM (ET)

New Creation United Methodist Church
4320 Bruce Road
Chesapeake, VA 23321

Tribute Wall



“ Elisabeth and I were saddened to hear of Sam’s passing and we extend our sincere sympathies to Joan and the family.

Sam was a wonderful human being – one of those individuals you were always happy to see.

Funny, kind, and astonishingly talented. I was stunned when I first learned Sam had built their harpsichord!

A visit to the Earl home was such a wonderful experience for me as someone who grew up loving Virginia history in general and Colonial Williamsburg specifically. I took pleasure in telling my always thoughtful and generous host and hostess over the years how much I admired their restoration and decoration of the King-Atkinson House. I told them it was perfect – and it was.

I first met Sam and Joan 37 years ago in what was then the especially idyllic small town of Smithfield – a lot of time to share experiences.

We were members of what was quickly dubbed “that South Church Street group” that was bound and determined to protect and preserve the Historic District. Soon, we were joined by folks from all over town who set the ambitious goal to help breathe new life into what was then the decaying town center. And working together, we succeeded. And that spirit lives on.

I count myself fortunate to have known and enjoyed Sam and I am confident that we will meet again.

Brad Face - February 23, 2023 at 09:37 AM

BM

“ *My deepest sympathies to Joan and family. I worked for Sam at the B & B in Smithfield. Such a kind man.*

Brita Haag Mizelle - February 04, 2023 at 01:44 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Henry Samuel Earl Jr..*



February 03, 2023 at 05:54 AM

BA

“ *I have so many great memories of Sam. I will always remember the model airplanes, clocks, furniture and other interesting things he built. Also the interesting sailing and camping stories. I especially remember Sam at all of Mom and Dad's family get togethers through the years.*

Barry - February 01, 2023 at 08:48 PM

LS

“ *Love, Jon and Sherrie purchased the Rainbow Reflections Basket for the family of Henry Samuel Earl Jr..*



Love, Jon and Sherrie - February 01, 2023 at 07:47 PM