



Ernest "Ernie" Bickford

October 13, 2016

Ernest "Ernie" Armand Bickford of Pilesgrove, New Jersey, passed away on October 13, 2016. Born in Worcester, Massachusetts and raised in Leicester, Massachusetts, Ernie was the son of Richard H. and Edna (Kershaw) Bickford. Ernie was a graduate of Leicester High School and Lawrence Academy. He attended Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU), where he majored in physics and math and played football for three years; he graduated in 1961. Upon graduation, he played semi-pro football for the Akron Pros.

Prior to college, he served his country for four years with the US Air Force. He was the last Korean War veteran to attend Ohio Wesleyan, which earned him the nickname "The Old Grad" as he was six years older than his classmates. Upon his graduation, Goodyear Industrial Rubber employed him. In 1977, he started his own business, Bickford Rubber Supply in Woodstown, New Jersey. Ernie's other business ventures included the western apparel store, Cowtown Cowboy Outfitters. He worked at the Cowtown Rodeo for forty-two summers and attended his last rodeo this September. He also co-owned a charter fishing boat, roasted pigs for parties, and sold wood-burning stoves in the 1970s.

Ernie served as a Pilesgrove Township committeeman and was later elected Pilesgrove mayor for two terms. He also served on the board of the Harvest Bank of Salem County.

He is survived by his children, Michael (Kessler) of Easton, Maryland; Peter

(Teri) of Baltimore, Maryland; Suzanne Zigo (Travis) of Pilesgrove, New Jersey; and siblings Carol Baptista (Carlos), Judy Glass, Maxine Arsenault (Kenneth) and Dick Bickford; and five grandchildren, Alec, Ryan, Andrew, Lindsey, and Henry.

Services will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at the Adams Funeral Home, 64, Broad St., Woodstown, NJ, 08098. The memorial visitation will begin at 9:30am, with the service following at 11am. Interment will take place at a later date at Berlin South Cemetery in Worcester, MA. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Salem County chapter of Meals On Wheels. www.scmealsonwheels.org

www.adamsfuneralhome.org

Cemetery Details

Private Interment

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

OCT **20**. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Adams Funeral Home (Woodstown)
64 Broad St.
Woodstown, NJ 08098
(856) 769-2220

Memorial Service

OCT **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

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64 Broad St.
Woodstown, NJ 08098
(856) 769-2220

Tribute Wall

WG

“ Ernie was the starting nose guard when I was a Freshman at Ohio Wesleyan. He had a wonderful sense of humor and looked on playing football as a joy .I looked up to Ernie and remember that association with a smile. He approached life with a "gusto." I was very fortunate to have the privilege of knowing Ernie. We have lost a great guy.

Wesley G. Johnston

wesley g.johnston - November 11, 2016 at 09:33 PM



“ Ernie will always live on in my memory. It didn't take much to see past his gruff exterior. You did a marvelous job of keeping him going with love and care. It's up to you, niece & nephews, to carry the legend forward.

Neil Jones - October 21, 2016 at 08:57 AM

DO

“ Susie, Peter, Michael....your father was one of the most fun people I ever met. Several times he let Jack Hathaway and I take care of his chickens and pigs when you guys were on vacation. I also remember how proud he was when he bought his Quadraphonic stereo system. I only wish I had a chance to sit and talk with him one more time.

Dale OBrien - October 20, 2016 at 01:12 PM

CL

“ Thinking of you Mike, Peter and Suzy. Sending you hugs and prayers. Uncle Ernie was one of the greatest. I am remembering the times I visited with Mom and my Dad in the summers all those years ago. Love you all, Carol

Carol Lord - October 19, 2016 at 09:13 PM

 Debbie Patterson Gaston

“ Debbie Patterson Gaston lit a candle in memory of Ernest "Ernie" Bickford



Debbie Patterson Gaston - October 19, 2016 at 08:57 AM

GW

“ GEORGE WALSH lit a candle in memory of Ernest "Ernie" Bickford



GEORGE WALSH - October 16, 2016 at 09:29 PM

GW

“ GOD BLESS YOU ERNIE.WE WERE LIKE BROTHERS WHEN STATIONED AT OTIS AFB 61YEARS AGO. THE TIME WE WERE TOGETHER WAS THE BEST PART OF MY LIFE. I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU BUDDY. GOD HAS A SPECIAL PLACE IN HEAVEN FOR YOU. YOUR FRIEND AND BUDDY GEORGE WALSH.

GEORGE WALSH - October 16, 2016 at 09:28 PM

CW

RIP ERNIE..WAS HOPING TO GO ON ONE MORE WHALE WATCH WITH YOU MY BY MY SIDE. THAT WAS FUN IN SPITE OF ME GETTING SEASICK. LOL IF I GO ON ANOTHER ONE I KNOW YOU WILL BE LOOKING DOWN ON MY SIDE.

CHRIS WALSH - October 18, 2016 at 08:04 PM