



## Rodger Earl Hanlon

June 22, 1940 - August 28, 2024

Rodger Earl Hanlon, 84, of Ocala, Florida passed away on August 28, 2024 at Hospice House of Ocala, Florida, surrounded by family.

Rodger was born in Elyria, Ohio to Earl and Gladys (Zilch) Hanlon on June 22, 1940. He graduated from Amherst High School in 1958. During his high school years, he played on the varsity basketball and football teams, played sousaphone and saxophone in the band and served as the senior class treasurer.

Upon graduating from high school, he went on to Bowling Green University and then served his country in the United States Air Force as a staff sergeant and dedicated instructor.

While in the Air Force he made lifelong friends, two of whom became his daughter's Godparents. Later in life, Rodger worked as the Maintenance Supervisor at Dayco Corporation.

Rodger was a dedicated husband of 63 years to Betty Jane (BJ), who literally was his everything in life. If

BJ wanted it, Rodger was going to make it happen. He was the proud father of two girls, Susan (Sue)

Hanlon, attorney of Tampa, Florida, and Sandra (Sandi) Knight, nurse,

Houston, Texas, two grandchildren, Lauren (Chicago) and Ryan (Houston) Knight. Known to be a friend to anyone in need, Rodger's stature, was only matched by the size of his heart. Rodger loved to fly small aircraft with his friend Bob, loved feeding people well beyond them being full (his specialty was breakfast and cookouts with friends and family).

In his later years he enjoyed motorcycle riding with friends on the back roads of Ocala. There was never a time that Rodger would hire someone to fix something without first trying several times to do it himself. A midwestern boy at heart, he was happiest when he was riding on a tractor at his brother's Christmas tree farm, which took him back to his childhood days on the farm in Ohio. A fun piece of family lore is that Rodger might have been the only person who actually enjoyed frequenting landfills, trapping the closest unsuspecting bystander to be his ride along.

Rodger is survived by his wife, Betty Jane Hanlon of Ocala, daughters Sue Hanlon and Sandi (Hanlon) Knight, grandchildren Lauren and Ryan (Knight), brother Jack Bruce, 8 nephews and 4 nieces. He is preceded in death by his parents, Gladys and Earl Hanlon and his brother Neil Bruce.

In lieu of flowers of and in light of Rodger's lifelong commitment to public service and pride in his country we ask that donations be made to Toys for Tots or Wounded Warrior

Project in his memory.

# Tribute Wall

NI

“ I was extremely sad to hear about his passing. Mr Hanlon was a patient at my previous place of employment. I can still picture the entrance of such a tall/handsome man who was very protective of Mrs Hanlon. My deepest sympathies to the family and Mrs Hanlon who was extremely sweet/loving and whom I had the honor of hugging and enjoying little talks. May the family find peace during such a difficult time. God bless!

Nilda - September 12, 2024 at 08:42 PM

BH

Thank you so much for your kind words.

BJ Hanlon - September 19, 2024 at 10:09 PM

MK

“ So sad to hear of Roger's passing. So Much of my childhood was spent with the family. Sending my deepest sympathies and much love from Jersey to Betty Jane, Susan, Sandi and their families.  
Monica J. Klemm-Wigmore

Monica J. Klemm-Wigmore - September 08, 2024 at 12:50 PM

SH

Thank you Monica -- we all have fond memories of time spent with you and your family.

Sue Hanlon - October 30, 2024 at 03:47 PM

RF

“ It does not seem that it was 60 years ago that we first met! Roger was a great man and a great friend. Condolences and prayers are sent in his memory!

Robert James Flynn - September 01, 2024 at 12:32 AM

RW

*Rodger's free spirit is remembered riding in Studebaker sliding from one edge of the gravel road to the other on the way to his Uncle's farm on Allbrich rd in Elyria. You are forever with me Rodger* 💕🙏

**Ralph Wittenbrook** - September 03, 2024 at 10:22 AM

JR

*Sue I just seen your dad's obituary. So sorry! Please except our condolences! I know He is going to be missed! Sincerely, John and Julia*

**John & Julia Radtke** - September 04, 2024 at 12:59 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rodger Earl Hanlon.*



August 31, 2024 at 11:45 AM