



## Roy Eugene Freeman

April 2, 1947 - April 13, 2012

ROY EUGENE FREEMAN

April 2, 1947 – April 13, 2012

On Friday, April 13, 2012, Roy (Gene) Freeman slipped softly from the warm embrace of Jackie's arms onto the wings of an angel to be carried into God's presence. He was surrounded by his family who faithfully cared for and supported him in his long and courageous challenge with Stage IV Glioblastoma brain cancer. To call it a challenge is pale compared to the celebrations and victories won during the last 7 ½ years of his life since diagnosis. He often said, 'I am living with cancer, not dying from it'. And that he did! Roy not only survived, he thrived. A reverence and love of God were a strong part of Roy's existence.

Roy was born April 2, 1947, in Asheville North Carolina, the son of Roy and Eula (Smith) Freeman. In addition to his wife Jackie, their sons; Jason (Sandy) daughter Jane; Joseph (Carla) daughter Abyona , and Jonathan (Cari); other survivors include Roy's parents and brother Jerry (Cathy), their children Jarrod, Jennifer (Tim) Janiszewski, their sons Ethan and Dylan. Also, Buddy, the family's faithful dog, is missing his master.

Roy's thirst and quest for knowledge led him in many directions. He graduated from Melvindale High School and completed his journeyman certification at Henry Ford Community College as a Machine Repairman. Roy utilized this degree while he worked at Ford Motor Company for 39 ½ years. While

working there he continued his education by achieving a Bachelor's Degree from Baker College. To add to his 'mental tool cabinet', Roy became a licensed pilot, owning a 1965 Piper Cherokee. He inspired his doctors, nurses and co-workers. His love for history, particularly U.S. Presidential History led Roy, Jackie and their family to many parts of the world to see and learn first-hand.

He entered the US Army, Infantry, in 1968 and served in Korea at the DMZ. He was a very skilled 'car geek' building and racing his 1957 Chevy. However, his love for that car was replaced with the new love of his life, Jackie Price, daughter of Perry and Joy (Thomas) Price. Roy was always grateful to them for allowing him to love their daughter. Jackie became his wife on August 21, 1971. They traded their city life for a country life in the home they established on a 60 acre farm in Onsted. There were many crops grown, animals raised, but their proudest accomplishments were their three sons. The dictionary in the dining room continues to remind all of us of his DTU, "Dinner Table University" lessons.

The little ladies of Roy's life were his granddaughters. His world brightened anytime they called out his name 'Gampi'. The love and laughter they shared with their 'Gampi' are treasured memories -- a priceless gift!

Because of Roy's commitment to learning a scholarship in his honor will be established through the Lenawee County Education Foundation.

The family cannot adequately express its appreciation to Hospice of Lenawee and its wonderful staff for their compassion, care and professionalism as they assisted him and his family during the last 16 months of his life. To support their endeavors, contributions in Roy's memory can be made to Hospice of Lenawee.

In keeping with Roy's wishes, cremation has taken place and a full military burial will be held at Fort Custer National Cemetery, in Augusta MI, at a date to be determined. A celebration of his life will be held Sunday, April 22, 2012 at Wagley Funeral Home, 1501 West Maumee, in Adrian, with Pastor Fritz Kruse and Rev. Gail Blum officiating. The family will welcome friends on that

Sunday from 2 p.m. until the time of the service at 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Roy E. Freeman Memorial Scholarship Fund or Hospice of Lenawee. On line condolences may be made to the family at [www.WagleyFuneralHome.com](http://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com)

All of the cards, visits, food, words of encouragement and prayers during Roy's journey with his cancer challenge are gratefully acknowledged by Jackie and family

# Cemetery Details

## Fort Custer Cemetery

15501 Dickman Road  
Augusta, MI 49012

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 22. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)  
1501 W. Maumee St.  
Adrian, MI 49221  
(517) 263-1400  
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

## Service

APR 22. 3:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)  
1501 W. Maumee St.  
Adrian, MI 49221  
(517) 263-1400  
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ Roy Eugene Freeman

---

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ Jackie and Family, I remember well the day Gene became a special part of our family - the day you married August 21, 1971. Down through the years Gene has always been a man that loved his Lord, first of all, but then came his family. Gene was so happy when the Lord sent your three wonderful sons, Jason, Joe and Jon. Then the Sandy, Carla and Carie plus two granddaughters Jane and Abby. There are so many memories it is hard to just list one but I do know that Gene loved us and even when he was ill he always wanted to know what was happening with those he loved. Gene was so talented in so many areas but one of the best memories is Gene working the crossword puzzles - we shared the love of doing them but I chose the simpler type but Gene always wanted the New York Crossword puzzles, when I would visit the farm he always wanted to share the one he was working on. Of course, I had to decline as it was above me.  
Love all of you!!! Aunt Mattie

---

**Aunt Mattie Riley** - April 22, 2012 at 02:38 PM

WS

“ Jackie and family== Gene was a very special man in our life and he will be truly missed by all of us,He was always thinking of others and I will miss him very much, He is an example to follow as I travel my battle with cancer too. I was so glad that he was a part 'of my family for many years and that you all; know how much I wish I could of been there today to share this time. His final flight has taken off and ours will follow one day in the not to distant future.  
Love Wendy

---

Wendy Shelton - April 22, 2012 at 09:11 AM

CO

“ Jackie, I am so sorry for your loss!  
You and Roy always cheered me up when you came into the coffee house, and I loved meeting your family. To see Roy's face light up because I remembered his Everything Bagel, well toasted with cream cheese and coffee in a styrofoam cup was a blessing to me. He had such a kind spirit and was always there with a friendly word, even when he didn't feel his best. He will be fondly remembered. I wish there was more I could do to help you as you were such a blessing to me after my surgery.  
I pray the Lord comforts and brings healing to you and your family.  
Know that you are all in my prayers.

*I'll have a bagel in his honor!*

*Love & prayers,  
Connie O'Neal  
Brewed Expressions Coffee House/  
Scoops Ice Cream*

---

Connie O'Neal - April 20, 2012 at 05:21 PM



“ I don't exactly remember the first time I met Roy, but it was in May 1969 at Ft. Knox, KY. in basic training for the Army. We became friends there and then traveled to Ft. Polk, LA for advanced jungle training and became best friends. Again we traveled together to Ft. Bliss, TX for Redeye Gunner school. We did what the Army said was forbidden and dangerous, we crossed the Mexican border and bought ponchos and sombreros and sold them from our barracks to many other soldiers after hours. We made a nice profit. Together again we found ourselves traveling to ...Korea??? We wanted to go to Viet Nam and fight for our Country. We asked for a transfer to Viet Nam...together. After about a month or so, we finally got our meeting for the transfer. It was explained to us if we stayed in Korea we would be eligible for a five month early out from the military when we got back to the States. Since neither of us wanted a military career, we chose the early out. Then we were separated and I only saw Roy once during my tour in Korea. At the out processing station in Korea, we met again. We rode the military plane home together to Ft. Lewis, WA. After we were discharged, we were taken to the airport. Northwest airlines was on strike and the place was packed. People were sleeping on the floors, sitting up, and maybe standing. Roy and I wanted to fly home on one of those new 747's. We were going to LA to fly one to Chicago. All flights were over booked and ticket agents couldn't tell us when we could depart. I told Roy we had to go where nobody else wanted to go. So we bought standby tickets to some God forsaken place in Idaho I think. At the boarding gate there was room for just one more. We had our first argument as to who would go. Roy won and I boarded the plane. Then when I looked up, there was Roy on the plane looking for his seat. We traded seats and were together again for the ride home. The flight also went to St. Paul and then to Chicago. We were on that plane all night together. At Chicago, we looked each other in the eye and said our good-byes. It was a special relationship with a special guy I knew I would never forget. We were young and it was time to move on with our lives, careers and families.

Then...42 years later, a voice on the phone said... I am Roy's wife and he would like to see you. So my wife and I made the trip to

*reunite with Roy and his family. As I was walking up the sidewalk to the house, I saw this old fart sitting there on the porch. And what is amazing to me is he thought some old fart was coming to see him. We didn't recongized each other. It didn't take long in the Freeman home and we felt like we had known them for years. His wife and my wife even had similar tastes. It was a wonderful visit and I will never forget it or my friend Roy. Back in Texas after the lights were turned out in the barreks, after a few minutes of quiet, I would say in a deep voice, "Good Night Chet", and Roy would respond in a deep voice "Good Night David" and I would close with " and good night for NBC news". I know we will meet again someday in that place where there are no more good-byes, but until then "Good Night Chet".*

*Ron Cybulski*

---

**Ron Cybulski** - April 20, 2012 at 10:16 AM

PH

“ *All our love Jackie, Joy and family.*

*Larry, Peggy, Emily Hlavka*

*Josh, Halley and your little buddy, Logan Jewell*

---

**Peggy Hlavka** - April 17, 2012 at 03:10 PM

KG

“ I met Roy and Jackie at a tractor show in Ohio. Jackie accompanied Roy to the show because the boys had commitments. I remember that Roy was rather surprised to see me there and recognized me instantly. It was very flattering. I immediately felt a connection with both Roy and Jackie and have stayed connected through email and phone calls. They are a wonderful couple.

Today I got a call informing of Roy's passing and I am so grateful that it was a peaceful transition. I am very sad to hear the news, but am assured that Roy is now keeping company with the best of the best! Jackie, you will be in my prayers. I am going to go light at candle for you today. Lots of love and prayers to you and your family.

*Kate Goelzhauser*  
*Editor, LAGT Magazine*

---

**Kate Goelzhauser** - April 17, 2012 at 10:53 AM

LY

“ I remember Gene taking me for a ride in his airplane and I thoroughly loved it! Another great memory happened a couple years ago when Gene, Jackie, Jon and Cari were able to come down to North Carolina. Gene so wanted to go to Mt. Mitchell, so Terry and I loaded everybody up in dad's car and went there in the evening - even though it was summer in the evening it is quite cold. Gene thoroughly enjoyed that outing and so did we. We had a hard time keeping up with him! Jackie - our love and prayers are with you and Jason, Joe and Jon and your families. Sorry we can't be there with you during this time. Love you all!

*Terry and Lori Young*

---

**Lori Young** - April 17, 2012 at 07:06 AM

CA

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. We will be praying for your family as you go through this valley. May God's comfort and peace surround you as you travel this road of sorrow.  
Our love and Prayers are with you.  
Gary & Carolyn Adams

---

**Carolyn Adams** - April 16, 2012 at 11:27 AM



“ *Celestial Love* was purchased for the family of Roy Eugene Freeman.



---

April 16, 2012 at 11:23 AM