



Howard Donald Thornett Jr.

April 16, 1942 - March 30, 2024

Howard Donald Thornett, Jr. passed away March 30, 2024, in Fairfax, Virginia.

He grew up in McLean Virginia and was a graduate of McLean High School. He was also a ROTC graduate from Virginia Tech. He was a proud member of "H" company at VA Tech, and graduated with an Animal Sciences degree. After graduating, he joined the Army and was stationed in Korea before moving to Camp AP Hill with his wife Joyce. After leaving the army, he and Joyce moved to McLean and then Fairfax to raise a family. He worked for Litton Bionetics/Hazleton/Covance as a Facilities Manager and later as the Director of Operations. He stayed at the lab for over 40 years before retiring. He loved fishing, especially on the Shenandoah River and at the Outer Banks. He also loved seafood and was known to spend three hours straight eating at the Chesapeake Bay Seafood House. He loved taking trips to Charleston (sometimes by way of a very long detour) to eat at his favorite restaurant A.W. Shucks. He could often be found with a cat in his lap or feeding them treats. He was certainly a generous, unforgettable man that was well loved and will be missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Susie Thornett, and his wife Joyce Thornett.

He is survived by his three sisters, Kathryn Holder and husband Joe, Mary Maness, and Sarah Thornett; his three children, Julie Sanders and husband Rob, Eric Thornett, and Amy Schiefer and husband Josh; and his two grandchildren Abigail and Mikayla Sanders.

A Celebration of Life will be on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at 3:00 P.M. at Dellinger Funeral Homes, Woodstock.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society.

Tribute Wall

DS

“ I worked for Don at Litton Bionetics around 1975-1985, he was a lot of fun. We use to pull practical jokes on him and the rest of the staff every week if not every day. He always knew who did it but he never got mad at me or my partner in crime for pulling the jokes on the staff and him. I was just a young guy fresh out of high school. He taught me a lot of lessons about life and work. It was one of the best periods on my life. Even today in retirement I still use things he taught me. He was just a salt of the earth type of guy. I'm so sorry I lost contact with him, he was an influence in my life and many other people. My condolences go out to his family, I am sorry I found out about this so late.

David W Shifflett - June 21, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ We had hoped to be there with you all today. My favorite memory of your dad was at the church after your mom passed away. I was saying I loved your mom and they were kind of an opposites-attract couple cuz your dad seemed a little scary. He overheard and startled us with a "Who meeeee?" that made everyone laugh. I'm glad we got to know him a bit better in the years since! Sending our deepest sympathy to you all - Eric, Amy, Julie, and the rest of the family.



Sara & Dan - April 06, 2024 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ *Sending our condolences.*”



H.W. Cole and family - April 05, 2024 at 12:00 AM