



Donald B. Ritts

February 16, 1952 - January 13, 2026

Donald B. "Bruce" Ritts, age 73, of Shippenville, formerly of Strattanville, passed away unexpectedly of natural causes early Tuesday morning, January 13, 2026, at his home.

He was born on February 16, 1952, in Titusville to the late William Clair and Muriel Jean Heeter Ritts.

Bruce proudly served his country in the United States Navy, where he met numerous friends who became his support system and second family. He dedicated his life to the military and was recognized by Veterans Affairs for his service and sacrifice.

After being honorably discharged, Bruce worked as a taxi driver in South Carolina for eighteen years. He then moved back home and worked various government jobs until he retired.

Bruce was an avid racecar fan and loved his dog, Bandit, whom he is now reunited with.

He is survived by his daughters, Gigi Wiltanger and her husband, Pat, of Pittsburgh, and Michelle Kiser and her husband, Mark, of Virginia, as well as three grandchildren.

He is also survived by his sister, Barbara Gilhousen of Limestone; his Strattanville neighbors, Ed and Deb Slaughenhaupt, and their son, Tommy, who were like family to him; his retired military friend, Tom Tyler, and his wife, Mary, of Shippenville; and his Veterans Affairs team, who were a huge part of his life.

In addition to his parents, Bruce was preceded in death by his two brothers, Tom Ritts and Dennis Ritts, and two sisters, Carol Shilling and Sylvia Ritts. The Robert V. Burns Funeral Home has the distinct honor of serving the family. Per Bruce's wishes, all services will be private, and cremation care has been entrusted to the RV Burns Crematorium, Inc.

Inurnment will take place at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies in Bridgeville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Bruce's name to the Wounded Warrior Project online at support.woundedwarriorproject.org.

Cemetery Details

National Cemetery of the Alleghenies

Bridgeville, PA

Tribute Wall

KM

“ I will miss Bruce a lot. He had the best laugh and was so nice to everyone. I am very lucky to have met and called him a friend.

Kassy Macpherson - January 19 at 03:48 PM

CW

“ I will miss being his home health aide, he was something else that's for sure, most all he had good heart ! RIP Bruce

Cherlynn Walko - January 16 at 03:03 PM

MK

Thank you for the kind words you spoke of for my dad.

Michelle K - January 19 at 04:36 PM

DS

“ Oh my Bruce the world won't be the same without you! We will surely miss you 🙏😭. Rest in peace my friend

Deb Slaughaupt - January 14 at 05:05 PM

MK

Thank you for the sentiments you spoke. Greatly appreciate it

Michelle K - January 19 at 04:36 PM

HG

“*"Villa" has pulled up stakes and headed on to his next great adventure,*

It seems like just yesterday, but I know it must be more than sixty years,

There we all were, looking to grow up on the back streets of "good old St Petersburg."

Tom was "Harvey." Dennis was "Dope." Bruce was "Villa." I was "Huffy."

J. Jordan was "Fishbones," and Bob Edwards was "M.B."

I don't recall who exactly put which nickname onto whom, but there it was and it was our bond as we made our way through those days.

In truth, those were times of very little plentitude and the "where with all" was hard to come by for us all, but we managed to scare up more than a few good times and our "bond" helped us realize we weren't in it alone.

Of course, before long the "winds" of time sent us in all directions and despite a very occasional chance meeting our memories of that time are the best view of how we were.

Congratulations, Bruce, on your many accomplishments and a life honorably lived.

May God rest you well,

Thank you all for a great picture. It is exactly how I remember him.

*Yours, In Remembrance,
Howie*

Howard Gordon - January 14 at 03:51 PM

MK

Thank you for sharing this with me, I never knew this about my dad

Michelle K - January 19 at 04:38 PM

CS

“ *Connie Snell lit a candle in memory of Donald Ritts*



Connie Snell - January 14 at 10:38 AM

MK

Thank you

Michelle K - January 19 at 04:39 PM

JB

“ *John Barty lit a candle in memory of Donald Ritts*



John Barty - January 14 at 03:30 AM

MK

Thank you

Michelle K - January 19 at 04:41 PM

KA

“ *He was a blessing to have him near when Dennis was ill. He is happy to be with Bandit*



Karen - January 13 at 08:00 PM

MK

Thank you Karen!

Michelle K - January 19 at 04:42 PM

BR

“ *Brooke lit a candle in memory of Donald Ritts*



Brooke - January 13 at 01:56 PM

MK

Thank you!! Could Not do this without you!!!

Michelle K - January 19 at 04:41 PM