



## Earl E. Zerfoss

September 3, 1937 - March 19, 2020

Sadly, on Thursday morning, March 19, 2020, we lost Earl E. Zerfoss of Clarion at the age of 83. He was born on September 3, 1937 in Stonycreek Township, Somerset County; son of the late Leroy Parker and Anna Ruth Zerfoss. Earl was a 1955 graduate of Shanksville-Stonycreek High School. After high school, Earl met the love of his life, LaVerne Albright, on June 27, 1959, and remained by her side through 49 years of thick and thin until her passing in 2008. He enlisted in the US Air Force and served for 4 years at Omaha Nebraska's Offut A.F.B. (home of Strategic Air Command) "Once you get on it, you can't get offut" as it was affectionately referred by servicemen. Earl was in charge of the in-flight kitchen, known as Crash and Fire Dining Hall.

During his time in the A.F., he had the distinction of meeting Lyndon B. Johnson and his wife, Lady Bird Johnson, as well as John F. Kennedy. After his honorable discharge, Earl and LaVerne moved to Clarion in 1962. He was offered a general manager position at Howard Johnson's motel chain and a general manager position of food service at the Clarion State College. Earl moved his family to Clarion and never looked back. He remained at Clarion University until his retirement in 1994.

During Earl's time in Clarion, he didn't just sit around. He served on countless organizations. As a result of his hard work, he was named Citizen of the Year for his dedication. To name only a few organizations, Earl served on the Clarion Hospital Board of Directors, Clarion Little League, and his most

treasured board, Clarion Borough Council. Earl was appointed to fill a vacancy in 1972 and remained active until a couple months ago when he bid farewell and took his final bow. He said "It is time for someone younger to take over." During Earl's time on council, he was proud to have served the residents in Clarion Borough. While his accomplishments were many, two usually came to mind when he spoke of his time on council: the starting of the Central County Ambulance Service, which later joined the Clarion Hospital, and the blocking of Main Street between 5th & 4th during A.L.F. He felt it was his responsibility for the safety of those enjoying the festival.

He was a life-member of the American Legion Post #66 of Clarion and the Kiwanis.

Earl was an avid supporter of the police department, public works, and the volunteer fire department. He "went to bat" on a number of occasions in defense of the firemen, police, and maintenance. Earl believed it was those professions that make a big difference in the Borough of Clarion, and to them, he owed his gratitude. Earl was also a HUGE proponent of stop signs, saying "I never saw a stop sign I didn't like." So for all of you in Clarion, you can thank him for having to stop at almost every block.

He is survived by his three children: Lethia and John Seitz, Dawn and Lance Reed, and Shawn and Amy, all of Clarion; ten grandchildren: David and Amanda Collett, Anna Reed, Buddy and Alyssa Reed (Air Force), Leroy and Amanda Reed (Air Force), Lexi and Andrew Harbaugh, Aaliya Reed and her significant other, George Strauser, Madison and Zach Graham (Air Force), Mikey McClain and Kylie Hannold, Cora Zerfoss, and Brendan Zerfoss; and nine great grandchildren: Ruby Collett, Parker, Keylee, and Tanner Reed, JoJo and Hunter Reed, Eli and Grayson Harbaugh, and Jaxson Strauser. Earl is also survived by his sister: Judy; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; loving wife; his sons-in-law: Kevin "Moose" McClain and Jim Collett; his brothers: Don and Fred; and his sisters: Ruth and Louis.

Due to the current coronavirus pandemic, a private family viewing will be held

at the Robert V. Burns Funeral Home in Clarion, followed by a service with Rev. Monty Sayers, pastor of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Clarion.

A public Memorial Service, honoring Earl, will be held at a later date when the coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

Interment will be held at the Cedarview Memorial Park in Strattanville.

Earl wanted a party to celebrate his life...don't let him down.

Out of Earl's great respect for the Clarion Volunteer Fire Department, he asks donations be made to the Clarion Fire and Hose Company #1, 525 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214, where your contributions will go to help save those in need.

# Tribute Wall

BG

“ So sorry to hear of Earl's passing. Worked with him for years on Clarion Borough council and found him to be an excellent leader and very dedicated to the betterment of Clarion in anyway he could.

*My heart felt condolences to all his family and friends.*

*Barry Grimm-Sarasota, Florida*



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**Barry Grimm** - April 27, 2020 at 09:18 PM

RS

*Earl was a unique individual who I admired. I worked for him at the college for 5 years and we had a great work relationship. His terse sense of humor and crazy smile will always remain a source of happy memories. God must have needed his skills!*

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**Ronald Stanton** - May 24, 2021 at 08:21 PM

LG

“ Earl was a great community leader and did so much for the Clarion area. He will be missed.

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**Layne E Giering** - March 24, 2020 at 10:38 AM

JM

“ Jeff McLaughlin lit a candle in memory of Earl E. Zeffoss



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**Jeff McLaughlin** - March 22, 2020 at 05:35 PM

DA

*Thank you...❤️*

**dawn** - March 23, 2020 at 08:25 PM

FL

“ *FASD Cafeteria Ladies lit a candle in memory of Earl E. Zerfoss*



**FASD Cafeteria Ladies** - March 22, 2020 at 12:17 PM

CS

“ *Carol Stanford lit a candle in memory of Earl E. Zerfoss*



**Carol Stanford** - March 21, 2020 at 09:48 PM

JM

“ *Earl was a good man, my condolences to his family and the all the Reed family.*

*Jeff McLaughlin*

**Jeff McLaughlin** - March 21, 2020 at 04:31 PM

TT

“ Throughout life you cross paths with someone that has a defining effect on the direction that your life goes. I was blessed to have that happen to me when I first met Earl Zerfoss.

I first met Earl in the early 90's when I applied and secured a position with the Clarion Borough maintenance dept. During my career with the dept. I had the pleasure to interact with Earl and to admire his dedication to the working person. I always felt that his support was there whenever needed and that trusting relationship he would build with those he dealt. Earl guided me throughout my life and many times he would approach me and ask how things were going. One of his many qualities was the fact of his genuine sincerity that he truly did care.

I would have to say the one great quality that stood out among all the rest was Earl's love for his family. Earl would do anything he could to help them and to show them how much he loved and care for them.

I am proud to know Earl and to be blessed to know him as a friend. He will be missed by myself and my family. May God comfort you in the journey before you.. Tom, Vickie, Mindy and Shelly.

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**Thomas Thompson** - March 21, 2020 at 08:20 AM

SZ

Tom, this means a lot to me. Thank you

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**Shawn Zerfoss** - March 22, 2020 at 08:30 PM

DL

“ Our heartfelt sympathy & prayers go out to the entire Zerfoss family during this time of loss. I am grateful for Earl’s influence on my life during my days attending college in Clarion. He was a Father-like figure; great friend & employer that helped me launch my life in the business world. May God richly bless ALL of you & give you His Peace.

*Dan & Linda Leggett*

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**Dan Leggett** - March 20, 2020 at 03:43 PM

SZ

*Thanks big brother*

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**Shawn Zerfoss** - March 22, 2020 at 08:31 PM

MB

“ *Shawn,*

*My deepest condolences to you and your family.*

*Mike Bogush*

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**Michael Bogush** - March 20, 2020 at 03:03 PM

DL

“ Our heartfelt sympathy & prayers go out to the entire Zerfoss family during this time of loss. I am grateful for Earl’s influence on my life during my days attending college in Clarion. He was a Father-like figure; great friend & employer that helped me launch my life in the business world. May God richly bless ALL of you & give you His Peace.

*Dan & Linda Leggett*

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**Dan Leggett** - March 20, 2020 at 02:56 PM

LC

“ *Our Deepest Sympathy is with the family.*

**Lou and Betty Confer** - March 20, 2020 at 10:10 AM

KW

“ *Lee, So sorry to hear about you Dad. Just want you to know I am thinking about you at this double difficult time.*

**Kristi Wolbert** - March 20, 2020 at 08:56 AM

LI

“ *Linda lit a candle in memory of Earl E. Zerfoss*



**linda** - March 19, 2020 at 11:05 PM

LM

“ *So sorry for your loss, Earl was such a great man. He hired me many years ago to work at Franklin Area Schools in the cafeteria. He and I continued to touch base thru the concessions stands for baseball. Again so sorry for your loss and prayers to his family. RIP Earl*

**Lori McCool** - March 19, 2020 at 10:58 PM

EW

“ *Mr. Zerfoss was a neighbor of mine growing up. He was a great man. Prayers of comfort to the family.*

**Eric Williamson** - March 19, 2020 at 10:58 PM

SZ

*Thank you, eric*

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**Shawn Zerfoss** - March 22, 2020 at 08:28 PM

PK

“ *A great member of the Clarion community for decades and a great neighbor to Aunt Nancy Benn. We're sure thinking of you Shawn, and thinking of all of the Zerfoss family... You will be in our prayers here at the Kahle house. Hang in there!*

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**Pat & Diane Kahle** - March 19, 2020 at 09:25 PM

SZ

*Thank you pat*

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**Shawn Zerfoss** - March 22, 2020 at 08:29 PM

BF

“ *Our condolences Shawn and family.  
Sincerely,  
Leonard and Sara Brooks and family*

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**Brooks Family** - March 19, 2020 at 07:47 PM

SZ

*Thank you*

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**Shawn Zerfoss** - March 22, 2020 at 08:29 PM