



Melvin G. Riffer

March 27, 1932 - May 24, 2012

Melvin G. "Mel" Riffer, 80, of Wood Street, Clarion, died Thursday, May 24, 2012, at his home . He was the last surviving member of his immediate family.

Born March 27, 1932, in Apollo; he was the son of the late Walter Marlin and Della Mae Shirey Riffer.

Mel was married on October 23, 1959 to the former Carol Emig, and she survives.

He was a graduate of Eldred Ridge High School in Eldred Ridge, PA.

A veteran during the Korean War, he served four years in the Medical Corps in the U.S. Air Force.

Mel worked as a Guidance Counselor and teacher for Brookville Area School District. He also had worked at Knox Glass in Marienville and Knox in industrial relations.

He was a former Clarion Borough Police Officer. Mel was also mayor for eight years and was a member of council for eight years. He received the Department of the Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal. He was also the founder of the credit union in Marienville.

He was a member of the Farmersville Union Masonic Lodge #153 of Ovid, NY for 59 years. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed gardening.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by sister-in-laws, Dorothy Gross and her husband, Butch, of Florida, Donna Woodman of Clarion, and Wendy Burns and her husband, Steve, of Sligo; and a number of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and three siblings, Olive Mae Keeley, Lyle Marlin Riffer, and Marlin Walter Riffer.

There will be no visitation.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 26, 2012, at the First United Methodist Church, Clarion, with Rev. Dr. Deryl Larsen, pastor, officiating.

Interment will be held in the Clarion Cemetery.

Memorials and donations can be sent to the Venango Oncology Hematology Association, 1339 Liberty Street, Franklin PA 16323; First United Methodist Church, 600 Wood Street, Clarion PA 16214; or Clarion Forest VNA Hospice, Perkins Road, 271 Clarion PA 16214.

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Tribute Wall

LG

“ Carol & Family: We are so sorry for your loss. Lee knew Mel much longer than I, and has many memories; he always had a smile when he greeted you. We enjoyed chatting with him, and the "koffee klatch" gang. Please know we are thinking of you.

Lee & Karen Grosch - May 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Mel became my friend while I worked at Weidner's News Room during the early 50's. Always had great advice when I had a problem. More than 60 years later, I still think of him as one of the best advisors! He will be missed!

Dave Miller

David Miller - May 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

HG

“ Carol,
I was so sorry to here of Mel's passing. He was a good friend to me and helped me in school in the early 70's. The Explorers club he formed was one of the best experiences I can remember.

Hud Gerg - May 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ We are so very sorry to hear of Mel's passing. He was a wonderful person and has left a positive footprint in the world. The Earth is a better place for having had such a special man walk upon it.

Barry & Georgette Grimm - May 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ *Mel You will be greatly missed. I'll miss chatting with you at work and I know Matt will miss your talks and breakfasts and visits at college.*

Linda & Matt Hunsberger - May 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *So sorry to hear of your loss! I have many fond memories from being in Mrs. Riffer's class while also being in Clarion while Mr. Riffer was mayor. May he rest in peace and may the family be comforted in knowing so!*

Melinda (Mindi) Hughes-Wert - May 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ *Our sincere condolences on the loss of Mel. He was always a bright spot when he came into the bank and announced "Hello all you wonderful people". We will certainly miss him! May God be with you.*

Staff of FUN Bank - May 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ *truly sorry for your loss you will be in my thoughts and prayers*

kathy schmader - May 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ *Carol and Family
May God be with you in your time of sorrow and great loss. Mel was a great friend and I enjoyed knowing and working with him. He will truly be remembered for his time and wisdom that he gave to all that knew him.*

Raymond Austin - May 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Dear Carol, I will never forget you and Mel inviting me over for dinner after I graduated from CUP with my teaching degree. I always enjoyed dropping in to visit you both when I come back to Clarion. I know Mel was the love of your life, and I always felt you two were the epitome of the happily married couple. I am thinking of you with a heavy heart. Big hugs to you, Carol. Love, Margie

Margie Nanz Smilowitz - May 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ My sincere condolences to you, Carol, and to your family. Mel was a friend to me and a great buddy to my dad. The two of them will be telling stories about now.

Melanie Parker - May 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ *Carol and Family*
May God be with you in your time of sorrow and great loss. Mel was a great friend and I enjoyed knowing and working with him. He will truly be remembered for his time and wisdom that he gave to all that knew him.

Raymond Austin - May 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ condolences from our family to yours. i was a 4th grade student of yours, mrs. riffer and to this day, have very fond memories of that time. my maiden name is denio and i believe you and my aunt marsha were very good friends! my sincerest gratitude to you and my thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

sincerely,
susi denio wolff

susanne wolff - May 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ *Carol and Family*

May God be with you in your time of sorrow and great loss. Mel was a great friend and I enjoyed knowing and working with him. He will truly be remembered for his time and wisdom that he gave to all that knew him.

Raymond Austin - May 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ *Loving thoughts prayers and all the great memories with Uncle Mel.*

Love

Matt and Holly

Matthew Gross - May 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM