



William Lloyd Gautier

August 12, 1949 - May 16, 2019

Lloyd was born in Hope Mills, North Carolina on August 12, 1949 to Mr. John David Gautier and Mrs. Myrtle Johnson Gautier. Lloyd graduated from Hope Mills High School in 1969. During his Middle and High school years, Lloyd became well known in the Hope Mills community as an elite athlete that excelled in multiple sports. During these years Lloyd built bonds with his teammates that has endured the test of time and many of these teammates continue to be his brothers today.

After High School, Lloyd was drafted to the United States Army. After basic training in Fort Polk, LA he was sent to fight with his fellow soldiers in the Jungles of Vietnam. As he did with his teammates in high school, Lloyd built bonds with his brothers in arms that lasted throughout his days. Many of the brave men he fought alongside of he would never see again but they would stay in his heart and thoughts and prayers. During his time in Vietnam, Lloyd was wounded during battle and in turn was awarded with the Purple Heart.

During the early 1980s, Lloyd and Family Traveled to the South West corner of the United States looking for a dryer climate. While living in the south west, Lloyd fell in love with the culture and Art of the area. It was during this time that Lloyd started his transition from athlete to an Artist. Lloyd would later develop his talents to a level that would allow him to be invited to many prestigious art shows including shows held by the Cowboy Artist Association.

As the story goes, you may leave Hope Mills but you will most likely return, Well, Lloyd and Family moved back to Hope Mills. After returning, Lloyd re-connected with the athlete within him. Lloyd reached out to some former teammates and made contact with a baseball team located in Grays Creek and continued to play well into his forties, ending out his career starring in the NABA National Tournament while pitching a 15 inning, 2 hitter heart breaking loss for the right to play in the national championship. This reconnection to sports lead to coaching Hope Mills Youth in the Babe Ruth League, working with his son and nephews helping them gain recognition as athletes in multiple sports. And eventually becoming part of the high lights of the community working with Coach Bobby Poss, his

staff and the South view family building up to the NC State 4A High School Football Championship.

After the Friday night lights faded and Lloyds son and nephews had moved on to college, Lloyd focused his ability's on his professional career. During this phase of his life, Lloyd continued his reputation of going above and beyond the call of duty and built a reputation of competently managing high profile projects at Ft. Bragg and Military bases all over the country. The project that Lloyd held at the highest regard was his involvement into the design and construction of the Golden Knight Headquarters at Ft. Bragg, NC. It was during this project that Lloyd was made an honorary Golden Knight and had the privilege of spending time with our 41st President George HW Bush.

Lloyd has lived his life to the fullest, anything he ever set his mind to he has excelled at. He has taught his children and anyone willing to learn compassion, fairness, loyalty, value of hard work and importance of family.

Besides his Wife, Carolyn Jacobs Gautier: Lloyd is survived by his daughter, Michelle Renee Gautier and husband, Michael W. Smeilus; Son, Terry Lloyd Gautier and wife Jamie L Gautier, Grand Daughters, Hannah Marie Gautier and Hailey Michelle Gautier, Brothers, Leroy and Franklin Gautier, Sister, Patricia Gautier, 9 nephews and 10 Nieces. Lloyd is predeceased by his Mother: Myrtle Johnson Gautier, Father: John David Gautier, Brother: John David Gautier JR., Grandson: Tristan Michael Smeilus

There will be a memorial service held for Lloyd Gautier on Saturday, June 1st, 2019 at 1:00 PM at the Moose Lodge located at 3740 Owen Drive, Fayetteville NC. His family is inviting all of his friends and family to join them in celebrating his life. The family is requesting for all to Please bring a covered dish. The colors of the décor will be consistent with honoring his purple heart. Any flower arrangements following this theme will be greatly appreciated.

Comments



“ Growing up in our small town Lloyd was and made a big impression on me. He was a beast of a man strong as an ox with a gentle heart and personality.

mike logue - May 25, 2019 at 10:49 AM



“ Lloyd and I were always good friends in school. I love embarrassing him and he would find ways to pay me back. We had a small teen club in Hope Mills that my mom helped run and he was always there every Saturday night until we all got our license. He loved to dance. He is going to missed not only by family but a lot of friends. Rest well my friend.

Phyllis Holland Hemmingway

Phyllis Hemmingway - May 25, 2019 at 09:12 AM



“ Mr. Gautier u was like a father to me an my brothers its very sad that u left the HOPE MILLS COMMUNITY SO SOON U are a very special person Mr Gautier now u have your angel wings watching over the family

Doug hair - May 24, 2019 at 11:58 PM



“ I always looked up to Lloyd when I was in JR. High at Hope Mills...He was a heck of an athlete and certainly took no crap from anyone.. It was great to reconnect with him on facebook after all the years had passed . I will surely miss his post and conversing with him now and then on fb... rest in peace my friend Heaven will be a site brighter with your presence

larry calhoun - May 24, 2019 at 08:38 PM



“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Michelle Smeilus - May 24, 2019 at 07:53 PM



“ Papa Lloyd I could never express my appreciation enough to you for all the years of laughter, tears, talks, wonderful memories and especially your kind words & support during our darkest moments of coping with losing Gabe The love and compassion you have for your family and friends is admirable and we're lucky to have had you throughout so many great years! The memories we've shared will be cherished always Hug Grandma, Granny, Tristan & Gabe tight for me & give them butterfly kisses 🦋 ! Enjoy the beach with your toes in the sand. We love you Papa Lloyd & will see you when you come visit

Chrystal Myers "Gabe's Mommy" - May 24, 2019 at 06:17 PM