



Ralph David Merrill, Jr.

March 16, 1957 - February 26, 2011

Short Funeral Home

13 E. Grove Street, Delmar, De 19940

302-846-2525

DAILY TIMES & LAUREL STAR--- obit with photo, please send proof & price

LAUREL- Ralph David Merrill, Jr., 53 of Laurel, formerly of Delmar, died Saturday, February 26, 2011 at his home in Laurel.

He was born March 16, 1957 in Salisbury, a son of Ralph David Merrill, Sr. and Willa Faye (Goff) Merrill of Delmar.

In one of his classics, Billy Joel laments, "only the good die young." Unfortunately, sadly those words rang true on Saturday as David lost his short, hard fought battle with brain cancer. It has been said that if we could be half the man our fathers were than we would be the best man of our generation. David was that best man. His character was impeccable and his honesty unquestionable. Even, and most importantly, in tough times he never wavered and always did the "right thing." All that knew David were better people for having known him. He will be truly missed and always loved and remembered by his family and his friends.

David proudly graduated from Delmar High School with the Class of 1975. He worked for many years in construction as a supervisor for Temco, where his reputation for fairness and his loyalty was always obvious. He truly loved the outdoors and had a passion for hunting and fishing and competing in bow-shooting competitions.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his fiancé, Teresa Shupp of Salisbury; his son, Zachary Ralph Merrill of Laurel; two sisters, Carla Parker and her husband, Frank of Quantico and Donna Hurley and her husband, Patrick of Delmar; a step-daughter, Sara Shupp of Salisbury; and six nieces and nephews. He is also survived by two friend/brothers, Andy Hoffman and Jack Webb, both of Delmar, and a close friend, Sheila Bradford, his “angel caretaker” of Laurel.

A celebration of David’s life will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Short Funeral Home, Delmar, where family and friends may call from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00. The Reverend Jack Jester will officiate.

Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to Delmar Hospice, 100 Patriots Way, Milford, DE 19963, or the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 163, Salisbury, MD 21803.

Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home, Delmar. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.shortfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **3**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Short Funeral Home
13 E. Grove Street
Delmar, De

Service

MAR **3**. 7:00 PM (ET)

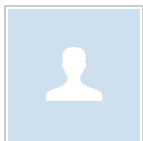
Short Funeral Home
13 E. Grove Street
Delmar, De

Tribute Wall



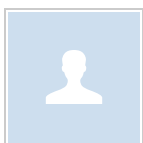
“ We were so sorry to read about the passing of your loved one. We wanted to send a card but did not have an accurate address. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Marcie##imported-begin##Marcie & Percy Elliott##imported-end##

March 04, 2011 at 11:32 AM



“ David will truly be missed. He had such a great sense of humor, he always made us laugh. He was the best at hosting an Eastern Shore "Crab Feast". Of course with his assistants Teresa & Sara. The good times we had with them at Nancy & Pat's will be always remembered.
May God Bless him and all of his family.
Cindy, Blake, Brooke & Casey##imported-begin##Blake, Cindy, Brooke & Casey McGrath##imported-end##

March 03, 2011 at 04:21 PM



“ To David's Family... I can remember seeing David over Andy Hoffman's house (my cousin) when visiting. He was such a happy person and full of life. Andy, Ann & Pat, as well as myself will miss David far beyond words can tell. God be with you and yours at this difficult time. Please know, if there is anything we can do, call upon us.##imported-begin##Joan White Wendell##imported-end##

March 03, 2011 at 02:13 PM



“ We are sorry for your loss Ralph and willa are thoughts and prayers are with you...##imported-begin##James and Lisa Dunwody##imported-end##

March 03, 2011 at 08:27 AM



“ God received another angel. Dave was a remarkble man who gained the love and smiles from everyone he met. He will be in our hearts forever. My thoughts and prayers go out to the rest of the family. We will see him again...cancer free and smiling...until we meet in heaven again.##imported-begin##Cheryl Goff Harms##imported-end##

March 01, 2011 at 03:43 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family. I graduated with Donna. I'm so sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##LuAnn (Reikard) Hampshire##imported-end##

February 28, 2011 at 11:14 PM



“ Dave was always a person that brought a smile to everyone! You will be missed by everyone that knew you. Zach, your Dad was very proud of you. It was a joy to be a Friend and classmate of David Merrill. See you in eternity some day. God's blessings to all of Dave's Family members and Friends.....Kay##imported-begin##Kay Short Habig ##imported-end##

February 28, 2011 at 08:39 PM



“ *Ralph and Willa: Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.##imported-begin##Richard and Donna Gerardi##imported-end##*

February 28, 2011 at 07:00 PM



“ *Ralph & Willa,*

We offer our heartfelt sympathy to you and your family. Our prayers are with you. God Bless##imported-begin##Michael & Jennifer Brown##imported-end##

February 28, 2011 at 10:49 AM



“ *To our best friend that we loved so very much. Dave will always be in our thoughts. Words can't express how much we loved him and will miss him.##imported-begin##Sharon & Jack Webb##imported-end##*

February 28, 2011 at 08:58 AM

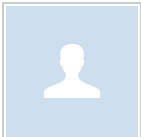


“ We are sad today at the loss of a great Friend . We have been close Friends with Dave for over 40 years . Our son will always remember 31 years ago when he was only 3 and Dave & Cindy had a bunny that Hopped around there house , Years later he was a hit with our Grandchildren when he showed up at a Tropical Party in Hawaian Shirt and orange shorts with a big smile , The kids all laugh when they speak of Dave . He worked with my Husband David Walker [Smurf] most of there adult life . He will be sadly missed . To Zach you have been a great Son to your Father . He was so very proud of you . To Theresa & Sarah we are so very happy you was in Dave's life . Smurf says not a day went by at work that Dave and him didn't exchanged thoughts about there Family . He loved his Sisters an Family spoke of them often . Our Hearts go out to all of you for we knew the Dave you knew and He was One Awesome Person . Our Love and deep sorrow The Walker Family.

~

Tina & Smurf Walker,
Bivalve, Maryland##imported-begin##Mr. & Mrs. David Walker
Sr.##imported-end##

February 27, 2011 at 08:15 PM



“ Dave we will miss you. I am so sorry that you have left us to soon. I wish there were words to comfort the loved ones you have left behind but I know better. I do know that you are with our father today as we all hope someday to be and all the hurt and sadness has been lifted from you. I pray it will be from your loved ones as well. You always were such a sweet and loving person. I believe that is what you would want for those who you touched with your life. Someware in heaven I know there is a big droolie dog with your hand on its back.##imported-begin##Ellen Eskridge##imported-end##

February 27, 2011 at 05:57 PM



“ Ralph, Willa, Zach, Teresa, and all the connected family: Dave will always be a special friend to our family. We have so many wonderful memories of Dave--from growing up with Kevin to helping us build our home. The memories we have made over the years will be cherished forever. He will live on forever in our hearts. Dave fought a courageous battle with the cancer, but God has another plan for him. We are here for you all during this very difficult time, and we will be praying for you as you mourn the loss of your precious son, father, soulmate and brother. We love you Dave, and we will see you again someday! Kevin and Melinda###imported-begin###Melinda and Kevin Tingle###imported-end##

February 27, 2011 at 04:52 PM



“ My heart is broken. I've lost the best big brother ever. I love you very much and you are going to be sadly missed. Goodbye for now my friend until we meet again in paradise.###imported-begin###Donna and Pat Hurley###imported-end##

February 27, 2011 at 02:30 PM



“ Ralph & Willa,

We are sorry to hear about Dave. Our hearts and prayers go out to you. He was a great person and will be remembered for always having a smile on his face. If there is anything we can do please don't hesitate to ask.###imported-begin###Keith, Trudy & Andrew Merrill###imported-end##

February 27, 2011 at 01:21 PM



“ *Ralph and Willa -- We were so sad to hear the news about David and want you to know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. We know things are very difficult for you right now and you can't help but wonder how you're going to deal with everything that's facing you. But we know you both and recognize that you have a strong spirit and the strength it takes to get through this time. If you ever need to talk or could use the support of a friend, we'll always be here. Please let us know if there's anything we can do to help ease your burden. Love you both, Ken and Lois Ingram*###imported-begin###Ken and Lois Ingram###imported-end##

February 27, 2011 at 10:38 AM



“ *One of my memories of Uncle Dave was holidays & Wednesdays (we used to get together every week at my great grandmother's "mama" house for dinner. Which he was the one who gave her the name mama because he couldn't say mommom. If anyone was late for dinner he would say "we waited for ya" hahaha (big laugh of his) meanwhile everyone would have already started eating. He was a great man and he will definitely be missed by many!*###imported-begin###April (Parker) Kerfoot###imported-end##

February 27, 2011 at 08:24 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers go out to you during this most difficult time.*###imported-begin###Richard and Sheila Faye Carey###imported-end##

February 26, 2011 at 10:10 PM



“ *Our love and sympathy to Ralph and Willa. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Bob and Diane*###imported-begin##*Diane and Bob George*###imported-end##

February 26, 2011 at 07:49 PM