



Charles F. Sparks Sr. "Fred"

August 23, 1935 - November 19, 2020

Charles F. Sparks, age 85, of Pennsville, passed away at home on 11/19/2020 surrounded by his loving family after a short battle with complications due to ALS.

He was predeceased by his parents Charles W. and Margaret (Brownlee) Sparks, his sister Margaret "Peggy" Boucher, and his beloved canine sidekick Hooper. He is survived by his wife Erma (McLaren) Sparks, children Charles F. Sparks, Jr. "Freddy" (Diane Schlor Sparks), Carole L. Sparks (Burdsall), and Patricia L. Sparks "Patty", grandchildren Brett A. Burdsall (Kristen Earnest), Tyler J. Burdsall, Drew T. Burdsall, Diana L. Sparks, and Taylor M. Sparks, great-grandchildren Bree Hayden Burdsall and Hailee Jade Burdsall, and several nieces and nephews.

Fred graduated from Penns Grove High School in 1953 and was enlisted in the Naval Reserve for 8 years where he served as 1st Class Petty Officer – Radar Technician. He worked at DuPont Chambers Works as an instrument mechanic for 37 years. He spent part of his childhood in Somers Point, NJ, where he worked in his parent's business, "Sparks Coffee Shop" and developed his love for the Jersey shore.

As a young man, Fred enjoyed many activities and hobbies such as scuba diving, spear fishing, swimming, boating, water skiing, snow skiing, riding and racing motorcycles, and cars. He taught trampoline acrobatics at the YMCA in Salem, leading to his love for diving off of anything he could climb upon: piers, pilings, and diving boards. He loved dogs and had an uncanny way of

communicating with them. He never met a mean dog. He was a life-long member of the Salem County Sportsmen's Club and helped establish the lake and swimming area. He was also a member of the Trinity United Methodist Church.

After retiring he enjoyed spending time with his family and his monthly breakfast outings with his DuPont buddies. He had a natural ability for carpentry and mechanics and was happy to be the "go-to" person for anyone who needed his help.

He was the rock of our family, a great teacher who set an excellent example of how to handle life's ups and downs with integrity, confidence, and humor... humor that lasted right up to his last breath as he told us, "If you need help with anything, you can find it on YouTube"!

A visitation for family and friends will be held on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at Trinity United Methodist Church, S. Broadway and Church Street, Pennsville, NJ 08070 from 11-Noon followed by a service in celebration of Fred's life at 12 noon. We kindly ask that all visitors follow current COVID-19 protocol.

In lieu of flowers, donations by check can be sent to Vitas Healthcare, 521 Fellowship Rd., Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **24**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Trinity United Methodist Church
75 S. Broadway
Pennsville, NJ 08070

Service

NOV **24**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Trinity United Methodist Church
75 S. Broadway
Pennsville, NJ 08070

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Charles F. Sparks Sr. "Fred".*



November 23, 2020 at 08:45 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Charles F. Sparks Sr. "Fred".*



November 21, 2020 at 05:26 PM



“ *Love to Erma and family...*

Alma Cole Pesiri - November 21, 2020 at 02:36 PM