



Robert F. Gwiazdon

March 4, 2020

Robert F. Gwiazdon, 77, of West Warwick, RI, passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side. Born in Minneapolis, MN, he was the son of the late John and Ann (Smoka) Gwiazdon. He was the loving husband of 51 years to Arlene F. (Passarelli) Gwiazdon.

Robert was a proud member of the United States Navy, SeaBee Construction unit serving in Vietnam. After his discharge, he worked as a General Contractor for Alfred Calcagni and Sons Construction before starting his own construction business Watson's Home Improvement. He custom built a stunning home brick by brick, nail by nail for his growing family relying solely on his unsurpassed skills as a craftsman, his resolve, creativity and hard working hands.

Always considerate of others, "Bob Watson" as he liked to be called, would always take time to chat with the clerk at Cumberland Farms or share a dog biscuit with a stranger walking past with a pooch. The "thumb's up" as pictured on his work van sums him up best. Always smiling; always optimistic.

Besides his wife, he will be greatly missed and is cherished by his children Lisa Dilorio and her husband, Robert; his son Robert Gwiazdon and his wife, Amy; daughter Stacey Vess and her partner, Judy. Bob also leaves behind his sister Phyllis Gwiazdon from Eden Prairie, MN and three adoring

grandchildren, Josh, Kevin and Mason. And of course, the beloved boxers he had over the years, most recently his sidekick, Dudley.

A burial with Military Honors will be held on Monday, March 16, at 10:00 a.m. sharp, at the Rhode Island Memorial Veterans Cemetery, 301 South County Trail, Exeter, RI.

Previous Events

Committal Service

MAR 16. 10:00 AM (ET)

Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery
301 South County Trail
Exeter, RI 02822

Tribute Wall

LD

“ *Six years tonight. But it seems like yesterday. They say time heals all wounds but it doesn't. One good thing is that death can't take away the spirit or end love. You are always with me in spirit and our bond is eternal. Thank you for being my dad, my friend and my support. And thank you for the ramp idea to help mom. I know that came from you. Love always, Lisa*



lisa diiorio - March 04 at 09:21 PM

LD

“ *Happy Birthday Dad! Can't believe you would have been 83 today. Yesterday was the Navy's 250th birthday. Today we celebrate the best dad and the best navy in the world. Miss and love you always, Lisa and the boys*



lisa diiorio - October 04, 2025 at 07:42 PM

LD

“ Hi dad. Today marks 5 years since we last spoke or seen each other face to face. Miss you but I know you're with me everyday in spirit. Can't believe it's already five years. Everyone always amazed at how fast time goes by. I cherish our memories. Just had a dream starring you last night. Of course construction and a barn was involved. Love those dreams...it's like a visit from you. Your beloved Chiefs lost the Super Bowl last month to the Eagles. I chose them to win because they are a great team but also because I know they were your favorite team. Maybe next year. Going to visit now at the Vets. See you soon. Love forever, Lisa



lisa diiorio - March 04, 2025 at 04:31 PM

LD

“ Happy 82nd birthday Dad. Hard to believe you'd be in your 80's now. You were always a young 60 and 70 something. And I'm sure you'd be a young 80 something now too. I never thought of you as "old". Always on the go and always young at heart. And your hardworking hands looked like they belonged to a young man....although not when they were on a young man. Then they had lots of cracks and callouses. They were hard working like their operator. But when you were in the hospital before God took you home, I remember noticing your young looking, no cracks, no taped fingers, hands and thinking to myself they are ready to get back to work again. You even talked about helping Bobby on a job "tomorrow" just a few hours before you departed. Your beautiful hard working, skilled hands deserve a rest as do you. Birthdays haven't been the same since March 4th 2020. I miss the balloons and cake and especially the big birthday hug I'd get for my birthday. Oh and the Marchettis gift card you'd always get 'cause you knew it was a favorite of mine. And I miss giving you a birthday hug on your special day and sometimes a card that you'd never open. But I knew your faves too...Cumby's, Roch's market and NY system (I never got the chance to get that gift card for you). Next month, I'll give thanks to God for blessing me with the best dad possible. Love you always, "Yeeta"



lisa diiorio - October 04, 2024 at 10:40 PM

LD

“ Fours years today. I feel your presence always which helps fill the hole in my heart. This time of the year always tough. I prefer to reflect on your birthday...the day you entered this world as opposed to leaving it on March 4. Not surprised you left for heaven on the same day numerically as you were born. I can just imagine hearing you say...why use another number when I have "4" already? Use it for both events. Always practical and humorous. I miss that about you. Miss everything about you. (I know you're smiling down at least for the reason that your Chiefs won the Super Bowl again over the 49ers. I rooted for them too.) Love always, Lisa



lisa diiorio - March 04, 2024 at 02:44 PM

LI

“ Happy 81st birthday, "Pops". Missing you, but I had to smile today while at the Vets cemetery thinking how beautiful, peaceful and respectful the grounds are, while also thinking how you would probably say it's too perfect. And way too much grass to maintain! Sending you a birthday hug like you always gave me on my birthdays. Love always, Lisa



Lisa - October 04, 2023 at 10:22 PM

LD

“ Today marks 3 years already. I still feel like you are going to walk through the door any minute with Dudley in tow and a cup of Cumby's coffee in the other hand. Maybe a bag of BK or NY System wieners too! I am grateful for the 50 years we had together. And I'm also grateful that you didn't have to deal with the china virus and all the non sense that came with it. And thank God you didn't have to see the biden administration actively destroying the country you bravely served. No doubt you are up there shaking your head saying, "What is that all about?!" I remember you watching an old movie on tv of people fighting just a few days before your passing. You said, "Even back then, man couldn't get along". So true. Miss you everyday. Love, Lisa and the boys



Lisa Diiorio - March 04, 2023 at 04:04 PM

LD

“ Today was our third Christmas since you've been in heaven. But you were with us, as always in spirit, celebrating this special day. I even wore the old Christmas sweater you bought me many years ago to remind me you are still present with us. Mom spent her first Christmas at my house too making it that much more special. We miss you so but take comfort in knowing and feeling that you are here with us, and always will be. Merry Christmas dad. (PS Your Chiefs won again and my Pats lost again. I know that made you smile!).



lisa diiorio - December 25, 2022 at 11:38 PM

LD

“ *Lisa Diiorio sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert F. Gwiazdon*



lisa diiorio - December 25, 2022 at 11:29 PM

LD

“ *Happy 80th Birthday, Dad. We all are missing you but you're here in our hearts, minds and souls everyday. Sending you a hug. (Your Chiefs beat Brady last Sunday. I'm sure you're smiling about that). Love always, Lisa*



Lisa Diiorio - October 04, 2022 at 07:51 AM

LD

“ *I remember exactly two years ago on this day, you were telling me that you were going to help Bob with some project the next day...not today. A few hours later, you were in heaven. It's unreal how fast the time goes by. The pain of missing you will always remain. But it's the little signs you continuously send our way that assures us that you are still here in spirit. Today Amy told me of the beautiful cardinal that frequents their home which you helped build. It was pecking on her window for a long this morning. Maybe still is. You always had a great sense of humor. We all miss and love you always..*



lisa diiorio - March 04, 2022 at 01:26 PM

LD

“ *Merry Christmas Dad. Today marks a second Christmas you spent in heaven and in our hearts. We all miss you everyday. We find comfort in knowing you are still with us and watching over us everyday.*

PS. I wrote this on Christmas Day but it wasn't printed. I had said I'd be picking your favorite football team, Kansas Chiefs, to win. They did.



lisa diiorio - December 28, 2021 at 08:25 PM

LD

“ *Today you would have been 79 years old. I can't believe two birthdays have gone by since I last saw you. Time passes by so quickly. I treasure the vivid memories I have of you. Sometimes it feels like if I think of you hard enough, we can pick up where we left off and chat about your favorite football team (Kansas City Chiefs) beating my Patriots, annoying tenants or crazy news stories. I pray my memory will enable me to continue our conversations until my last days. You may not be here physically any more, but you're in my mind and heart everyday and you still guide me in life. I pray God has blessed you with eternal peace and joy. I pray you are reunited with your old best friends, Deuce, JJ, Hank, Diesel, Dozer and Duke. Happy Birthday Dad. Love always, Lisa*

Lisa Diiorio - October 04, 2021 at 09:16 PM

LD

“ No one can believe today marks 1 year since we last saw you. One year in heaven. I was lucky to have you visit me in the hospital two months ago. You helped me get through that rough time. You were always there to support me from the day I was born. Death hasn't hindered that love and support. I miss your voice, your hugs, the roaring cozy fires that shook the house some times. Miss the coffee stains and the Cumby cups every where. Miss seeing the van pull into the driveway. Miss the giant cakes and balloons. You never forgot a birthday. Miss you. We all do. I take comfort as I know Bob, Stac and our families do that you are watching over us as evident in the beautiful signs you send each of us when we need it most. We enjoy sharing our experiences. Always liked to make people smile. Always reassuring. I look forward to the next sign/experience you send my way.



Love always,
Lisa

lisa diiorio - March 04, 2021 at 04:02 PM

LD

“ Thinking of you and missing you so this Christmas...our first apart. You may not be here physically but you live in on in my soul, my kids, my siblings, our shared sense of humor, and are forever in my mind and heart. And of course, you live on in beautiful 146 where I feel your presence daily. Every Christmas you gifted us a certificate to Marchetti's. But the greatest gift was the love you showed me throughout my life and teaching me how to face life's adversities with courage, strength and laughter. Your brave battle with cancer inspires me to face my own cancer with the same resolve. It didn't break you. You faced it head on with grace, bravado and never lost your sense of humor. You didn't sit around feeling sorry for yourself or wait for cancer to take you. You lived your life on your own terms despite the ravaging effects of the disease. I'm going to battle again myself. It shall not break me either. I will remember your strength and wit when I am at my lowest. Remembering proudly that I am Robert Gwiazdon's daughter will raise me up from any despair this evil disease throws my way. Thank you for showing me what real courage looks like.



Merry Christmas, Pops. Love always, Lisa

lisa diorio - December 25, 2020 at 11:52 PM

KJ

“ Happy Birthday, Grandpa Thumbs Up. We miss your stories. By the way, Tom Brady isn't a Patriot any more. We remember you wondering if he'd stay in New England or leave. Your favorite team, Kansas Chiefs, are doing great as they did when you watched them play in the Super Bowl this past February. Thumbs up, Grandpa.



Love, "K man" and "J man".

Kevin and Josh - October 04, 2020 at 10:57 PM

LI

“ Although it's been exactly 7 months today, it feels more like 7 minutes since you were called to heaven. They say time heals all wounds but some wounds are too deep and painful to be fully healed. Today you would have turned 78. Although a beautiful day weather wise, it was a solemn day thinking it's your first birthday that we can't say "Happy Birthday" to you face to face and exchange a hug. Same feeling last Sunday when I turned 51 without your thoughtful, signature balloon bouquet, cake, Marchetti's, and of course, the birthday hug. The balloons and cake may not be there any more but the gifts of having you be my dad and instilling in me the virtues of a stellar human being as yourself is beyond anything one can buy at a store. Love you forever. Happy Birthday, Dad. Love, Lisa



Lisa - October 04, 2020 at 10:48 PM



“ Our deepest condolences to the family of Bob. He was such a good man and his visits will be missed.

The Warwick Home Depot Pro desk

Chris Doran - March 27, 2020 at 03:58 PM

SV

“ Dad - Still can't believe you're gone. I went into Cumbys today - the 1st time since you passed and had a coffee for you. Those little things will be the most difficult in the coming months. .

You still are the hardest working man I know, and I don't know how you did it. So many long hours, even weekends and holidays, 7 days a week, really. But always singing, humming and bee-bopping no matter what. As a kid my friends always thought you were so cool and so funny. When they would call the house and you'd say, "J.D. line 2 is for you!" I would roll my eyes and act embarrassed but I knew they were right.

As an adult people tell me I'm a good listener and I have a kind spirit - I know where I got that from. (Except when you taught me to drive my standard - 1st and last time for that!) Thanks for hauling me and my bike to Lauren's all those times and our dinner dates after my piano lessons. (Sorry I was never any good!) And always giving out "a few bucks in case you need something."

A genuinely nice guy you were, and always so friendly and approachable. We could all use a little more of that these days. We all really miss you, Pops. Rest easy.

❤️ J.D. (Stacey)

Stacey Vess - March 13, 2020 at 03:54 PM

RG

“ Hello my friend, father, mentor. It's been over a week since you have left us and with it brings memories we have shared, one in particular I'd like to share. I was about 7yr old, you had given me my first hammer, 2oz Fisher Price, blue cast head with wooden handle, matched up to your 16oz Plumb hammer, also wood handle. I was being introduced to your skilled trade for building that dream home for us all to reside in. You had mom custom taylor and cut in half to fit a cloth Diamond Lumber apron so we could work together side by side...at last, we matched. I had one one pocket you had two. With a handful of nails in my apron I was armed and ready. 5lbs later of bent nails scattered about in our work zone, you would just look at me and smile, perhaps even a "thumbs up " if I could recollect . It was then I realized we shared the same passion, this is what I wanted to do, be like dad. The remensces of my handy work still to this day are in the corner of the garage. In later years as I grew a buissness and we worked together once again, you were always there with your best advice, "Go for it" as you would always say no matter what the circumstances or how difficult. You were a believer in me and you showed me how to take responsibility, be a man and for that I will always be grateful. When I proudly recieve your flag at the service, it is then I will know that your job as a father is complete....my apron is empty, nails are straight, head held up high, and yes realizing I did "go for it"!. I couldn't be prouder to be your son, your rt hand man. As a father now myself it is time to pass on what values you taught me. I cannot express how much I love you and miss you. You will never be forgotten and I will always be grateful. There can be only one reason to look forward to getting old, and that be my friend that we meet again someday . Love your proud son, Bob. You've touched many lives, not just mine.
Thankyou Pops.

Robert Gwiazdon - March 13, 2020 at 02:14 PM

LD

“Dad, I never really had the chance to thank you for the unconditional love, care, support and smiles you provided to me, Bob, Stacey and ma on a daily basis. You worked like a machine for your family and yet still had the time to take us every Sunday to a movie or bowling with pizza to follow, a trip to Disney and New Hampshire or a day excursion to the Washington County fair. Remember those awesome snow forts you built with us? Best around since we had a master contractor to help. Only the coolest dad would allow my friends to climb on the fender of his work van for a little ride after girl scouts or cheerleading. Only the coolest dad would let his little girl sit in his lap and "drive" his old green Ford van with him and later teach that little girl how to drive a stick shift, change a tire and her oil. Only the coolest dad would wake at four in the morning to drive his kids for their paper routes. You always encouraged us and shared your knowledge, skills and life wisdom. That explains why my brother has inherited and rightfully earned the talents of a master craftsman. While my sister (and hopefully I) have inherited your smarts, patience and sense of humor. In addition to being an incredible provider, you had to assume the role of both parents many times throughout mom's illnesses. You never complained about the added work and stress. In fact, I was always amazed and found comfort in your cool, calm demeanor in the face of adversity. Everything will be okay is how I felt whenever you took charge of one or an accumulation of life's challenges. Your thumbs up not only brightened one's day, it was and continues to be a message of optimism, confidence and happiness that is contagious to the open minded and open hearted. There are too many fond memories to list. But one of my personal favorites was when I asked you shortly before you left for heaven if there was anything you needed before I was to leave. You said, "Yes, one more thing". Standing up from your chair despite the ravages of your illness you gave me a big hug. You have thanked us so many times but it is us who owe you a profound thanks. Since actions speak louder than words, I hope that you know how very grateful we all are and how proud we are to call



you "dad" and "pops".

*Love you forever and forever you shall be missed. You're in my
mind, heart and soul.*

Love, Lisa

Lisa Dilorio - March 12, 2020 at 02:24 PM