



Buddy Deas

October 26, 1945 - December 2, 2023

James Alva Deas III, also known as Buddy, Daddy, Baby, Mr. Deas, Brother, Uncle Bud, Papa and Hercules was a man of many hats. He has received his life's most important one: his Golden Crown of Glory, as the lord called him home Saturday morning December 2, 2023, at his home in Cedar Key, Florida.

Buddy was born in Alachua General Hospital in Gainesville, Florida on October 26, 1945, to Red and Violet Deas. He was raised on a farm on Archer Road in Gainesville. All of his school years were spent in Gainesville schools, and he often bragged that just one school bus picked up all the kids from Archer to the Gainesville City limits.

After graduating from Gainesville High School in 1963, Buddy drove to Lake City every day to attend and graduate from Lake City Jr. College and Forest Ranger School. He then started the University of Florida while living and working at the Gainesville Livestock Market loading cattle on semis all night and then attending class at 7 a.m. By this time, he and Pat were married so he had to make it happen; he was a very determined man.

He graduated in 1968 with a BA in Animal Science with the intention of attending Veterinary School at Auburn University but God had other plans for Mr. Deas. He began his 36-year teaching career in Gadsden County and

continued his career in Levy, and Alachua Counties.

In 1983, he took a year off from teaching to earn his master's degree from the University of Florida graduating with a 4.0 GPA.

Buddy loved God, his family, his animals, his friends and life. He enjoyed fishing, spending time outdoors, collecting John Deere memorabilia and old tools. He was a man of integrity, loyalty and had a quick sense of humor. He will surely be missed by all those who knew and loved him.

He leaves behind his wife of 57 years, Pat, Daughters Ginger (Michael), Amy (Dan), grandson Rhett, sister JoAnne (David), brother David (Suzie), Pat's sisters which he claimed as his: Mary (Mike), Judy, Susie (Hugh), eight nieces, four nephews and other extended family and friends as well as his "boys" that he treasured dearly.

Buddy was a member of the First Baptist Church of Bronson, a lifetime member of the NRA, Ducks Unlimited, A Seasoned Owl, and a supporter of the St. Jude's Foundation. He was inducted into the FFA Hall of Fame in 2011.

Services will be held Saturday, December 9th, 2023, at the old Bronson High School Auditorium (310 School Street) at 10:00 a.m. with a reception to follow in the lunchroom.

The burial will be private at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Archer, Florida.

In Lieu of flowers, family requests that memorial donations be made to the University of Florida Buddy Deas Scholarship Fund which was set up several years ago by one of his "boys." U.F./IFAS P.O. Box 110170 Gainesville, Florida 32611 or

Online at give.ifas.ufl.edu

Arrangements have been placed under the care of the Rick Gooding Funeral Home Chiefland Chapel, with locations in Cross City 352-498-5400 and Chiefland 352-493-0050. Please sign the online guest book at rickgoodingfuneralhomes.com

Cemetery Details

Laurel Hill Cemetery

14028 SW 174th Street
archer, FL 32618

Previous Events

Funeral Service

DEC 9. 10:00 AM (ET)

Bronson High School Auditorium
310 School Street
Bronson, FL 32621

Tribute Wall



“ Rick Gooding Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of Buddy Deas



Rick Gooding Funeral Homes - December 11, 2023 at 12:32 PM

MW

“ Pat, Ginger, and Amy. I'm very sorry to hear of Buddy's passing. He was a great man and teacher; he taught me how to check eggs in Ag, which was fun. He touched many lives and was a more than a teacher for many of his students. God bless you Buddy Deas for letting your light shine on this earth. Lovingly, Margret Weeks

Margret Weeks - December 08, 2023 at 02:45 PM

HB

“ I was fortunate to know and work with Buddy at Spring Hill Middle. And to work Buddy was to work with Pat as she served daily as a staff member with no salary. What selfless people they were. Buddy has touched hundreds of lives in most positive ways. I am blessed for having known him and regret that we will be out of town as the area celebrates his life. May God bless you, Pat and family. Holt Browning

Holt Browning - December 07, 2023 at 07:13 PM

DM

“ Dear Mrs. Pat, Ginger and Amy,
I deeply regret to learn of his passing and further that I have an out of state trip which I cannot change that conflicts with the service. So, I pen these few words, conceding that many thousands of my words won't capture what I want to say.
He wasn't my favorite teacher or coach..... then. He had hard edges and sharp corners. It never occurred to me to hug him, although I like to hug people I love. Somehow though, his love for us was obvoius. Beyond doubt.
These days I sometimes have to go to court and am occasionally caught off guard by a judge, or opposing counsel. A nervous rush comes through, but then I tell myself, this isn't as hard as a parliamentary procedure contest, or even a practice. You could do this when you were 15 years old. Nerves depart and my brain returns to its search forr the correct words.
Do you recall what Johnny Cash said about his old mean Daddy that named him Sue? He said “ I think of him every now and then, every time I try and everytime I win”.
I guess it turns out that high expectations are a better way to show love than hugs, in some relationships. Nevertheless, I would hug you three if I could be there, and will upon seeing you again one of these days soon, Good Lord willing.
With Brotherly Love,
Doug Mckoy

Doug McKoy - December 07, 2023 at 06:56 AM

CM

“ Mr Dees was my Ag/FFA teacher in the early 80's. I learned much from him, both Ag and life lessons. Never in a million years could I think I could be on a State winning Land Judging team He made it happen. He always had a standard of excellence and our FFA chapter showed it.

Chuck Munk - December 05, 2023 at 09:25 PM