

John E. Dixon

John Emil Dixon, 73, of Palatka, passed peacefully Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015 following an extended illness, living and caring for all those around him every day until then.

He was born Aug. 13, 1941 in Palatka to Johan (Berdinessen) Dixon and Marie Annie Moody Dixon, and after retiring from the U.S. Navy, he became a lifelong resident of Palatka.

John joined the Navy when he was 22 years old and served 22 years in the Navy, serving in many Middle East battles and seeing the world. He was always sending postcards with lessons to his children and bringing back a sea bag full of gifts on every return. John's first concern was always to take care of his family, which meant having to be out to sea for most of his career, but always doing his best. He served on many ships and was stationed in many different places throughout his military career. John's service sent him on mostly Mediterranean cruises but also sent him to Europe and Africa and many ports in the USA.

John received several medals and awards while in the Navy, including 18 years of good conduct, the American Expeditionary Medal, Navy Unit Commendation award and medal, and the American Humane Medal. In addition, he became a member of the Blue Nose Club when at the age of 26, he sailed all the way to the "other side" of the North Pole.

John liked watching football, and always participated in the Thanksgiving tradition of tossing and catching the ball with his sons. John was a very compassionate person. He always helped anyone in need, giving everything he had to give without abandon. He loved his wife more than anything, and made sure her every need was met. He gave all to his wife and family, every day, without ever wanting anything in return. He also loved animals, and no matter what his health, made sure his animals were taken care of as well as watching and appreciating wildlife whenever he could.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 47 years Linda Stacey Dixon; his parents, Johan and Annie Dixon; his brother, Ernest Moody; and brother-in-law George Russell "Rusty" Stacey.

Survivors include three children, Lonnie (Natalie) Dixon, Tajaro Dixon, John Andrew "Andy" Dixon; four grandchildren Angelica Harsey, Malachi Dixon, Ella Dixon, and Graham Dixon; two great-grandchildren, Nevaeh Liline Harsey and Olivia Renee Harsey; a sister-in-law Judy Moody Herd; two nieces, Janet Barnhardt and Lillian Moody; two nephews Wayne Moody and David Moody; and family loved ones, Angela McLaughlin, and son, Drew, and Denise Dixon and Tim Collins.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, Jan. 16 at 11 a.m. at the Masters Funeral Home in Palatka with the Rev. Keith Hill officiating. Burial with full military honors bestowed by the U.S. Navy will follow in Decoy Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

Messages of sympathy may be expressed in his online guestbook at www.themastersfuneralhomes.com.

Masters Funeral Home of Palatka is in charge of the arrangements.

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