

Eulogy for Lester Eugene Stambaugh

written by his sons and daughter

LESTER EUGNE STAMBAUGH was born on January 21, 1931, at home in York, Pa, to Charles and Elizabeth Stambaugh. Lester always known as Les, which was also his initials L E S and his physical height short. Jokingly, he would always stop at gas stations that would have a sign stating: "Gas for less."

HE hails from a generation of folks who were born amid the Great Depression and reared during World War II. He contributed to the Baby Boom, developed as a person in the 30's and 40's, made life changing decisions in the 50's, navigated through the 60's and 70's as a Father, prospered during the 80's and 90's, rang in the Millennium with retirement, and immigrated into the Age of Technology.

HE was the third child of seven. With these close-knit siblings, he shared a bed tucked in with bricks heated by the stove to keep warm at night and they spent many days together fishing for their supper. He fought and scraped his way through elementary school, delivered newspapers before the start of each middle school day, worked at the A&P and applied himself to learning an electrical trade at York High School before graduating in 1949.

HE didn't leave York County the first 18 years of his life. However, he joined the Navy and travelled across the seas to Cuba, Brazil, Panama, Japan, Korea, Scotland, France, and Switzerland. He served his country during the Korean War as an electrician's mate on the Battleship USS Wisconsin. He loved to share his Navy stories to anyone who would listen. When touring, the sister ship USS New Jersey, the tour guide got mad at him because he kept telling extra details to the others on the tour. His loyalty and love for country and shipmates remained constant throughout his life.

HIS family was of utmost importance. He loved his parents and siblings He met his wife, Betty Lou, while in the Navy and developed their relationship through letter writing and visiting home on leave. He proposed to her the month after his discharged. He honored his marriage commitment to her for 54 years, despite her 12-year battle with Alzheimer.

HIS first child, Charles, was born on Valentine's Day. Nine months to the date of their wedding. Then on New Year's Day, their daughter Karen came, followed the next year by Mark in March. To his delight, eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren followed, were loved and guided with great intensity.

HE was passionate about his career as an electrician. Every project was done with 110% commitment, perseverance, excellence, dependability, detailed organization, thorough planning, and complete success as his end goals. He made it possible for thousands of buildings to have light to see and power to use. He worked for I.B. Ables of York for over 35 years with no paid sick days, holidays, or vacations, and mandatory overtime during the York Fair wiring all the rides, concession stands and exhibits. Once during the fair, he had to rescue people from the sky lift using the company bucket truck because the power went out. For several years, he shared his knowledge of electricity as an instructor for IBEW Union. You can thank Les for the Starbuck plant in York which was his last construction project. In his later years, he slowed down by taking an electrical maintenance position at Caterpillar Inc. His supervisor there, reported that he finally met a man that could walk on water.

HE would help others and volunteer for everything. He was known as "Mr. Fix it" to hundreds, who only knew how to break things. In his apartment, you could always find strange things he was working on. Even in his final days, he was giving instructions to make sure things were in working at Cross Keys.

HE ran sound and lights, for over 65 years, for weekly church services evening concerts and special events. He would make recordings for the KLU hour for the York Gospel Center and delivered them to WORK radio station. He was involved in the technical side of many Passion plays at Harmony Grove Church. Once at a sound seminar, the instructor was talking about how to have an effective sound ministry. The speaker was giving the examples of how Lester had things organized.

HE continued volunteering during his retirement years at Cross Keys Village. There he initiated the Veterans Committee, chaired the Library Committee, was involved in the Wellness Committee, ran the AV equipment, initiated a monthly movie night, completed electrical projects for the woodshop, and wired-up special effects for the Model Train Club. Also at Cross Keys, he was a friend to all. He treated everyone as family. After his wife died, he developed a special relationship with his neighbor, Janet who had lost her husband.

HIS faith in God was a major pillar in his life. Sometime during elementary school, a neighbor shared her knowledge and love for Jesus with him and took him to church with her family. He accepted Christ during a Youth Rally at the York Gospel Center. The YMCA held Christian training classes in those days, and the awards for his perfect attendance were proudly displayed in his scrapbook along with swimming and gymnastics awards. When he left for the Navy, he placed a picture of Jesus in his wallet, and it remains tucked in there today. He always attended good Bible preaching churches and supported many missionaries. He was even a lay Youth Leader for a few years. He was baptized later in life with his children in 1974. He did not verbally share his faith much, however his life influenced his siblings, parents, children, and many others to follow the Lord. Evidence of someone who loved, followed, and trusted God could be observed all through his life.

HE mentored anyone: his siblings, his kids, his Cub Scout troop of seven years, his electrical apprentices, coworkers, people in sound ministries, and the residents and staff at Cross Keys Village. He came alongside, gently guided, shared wisdom, and inspired others to achieve. He rarely got mad, upset or said anything negative against another person.

HE had a sense of humor. He searched out any children in the room and entertained them with his spot-on Donald Duck voice, his ability to close one eye at a time without allowing the other one to even blink, and a hand trick which made it look like he could remove the top portion of his finger away from the bottom. He had a toy monkey that he would make talk and clap.

HE had a long, good life, and if you knew him, you were very blessed. He did his best to make a positive difference in the world. We are grateful for the example of his life and honor him with much love and our highest respect. He is now in Heaven fixing things, running sound, showing a movie, or putting a puzzle together. We are sure that God welcomed Lester with open arms and said, "Well done my good and faithful servant."