



## Lester Vernon Dove Sr.

August 21, 1939 - March 27, 2020

Lester Vernon Dove, Sr. of Franconia, Va. passed away in his home surrounded by his loving family after a long battle with cancer. Born in Franconia on August 21, 1939. Lester was one of ten kids born to the late Vernon Stout and Virginia Mae (McGuin) Dove. He is also preceded in death by brother Eugene Dove and brothers-in-law Stacey Cassidy, Leo Estes, and Norman Estes.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years Vera Delores (Taylor) Dove, son Lester V. Dove, Jr. (Tina), daughter Sharon M. Hester (Ben), grandchildren Daniel Dove (Chloe Channon), Timothy Dove (Amber Clements), Victoria Hester, Brandon Hester, and Gabrielle Hester, and siblings Viola Estes of Dayton, VA., Louise (Robert) Barnowski of Alexandria, Va., Doris Cassidy of Alexandria, Va., Margie Estes of Warrenton, VA., Ralph Dove of Alexandria, Va., sister-in-law Barbara Dove of Hartwood, Va., Floyd (Linda) Dove of Boydton, Va., Herbert (Lynn) Dove of Bealeton, Va., and Leonard (Sharon) Dove of Alexandria, Va.

Lester Sr. grew up on the family farm on Van Dorn Street and started his career as a fireman volunteering at Co. 5 Franconia Fire Department when he was 16 years old. He became a career firefighter in 1971. He was stationed at different stations in the county starting with Woodlawn, Penn Daw, and Lorton (he was considered a lifetime member there), and he medically retired in 1987 from station #10 Bailey's Crossroads, while also operating a family construction business since 1976.

Lester married his sweetheart Vera Delores Taylor on November 13, 1965, who was also involved with the fire department. She was a majorette in the firemen parades and was also one of the queens of the Franconia Fire Department. She is also a lifetime member of the Franconia Fire Department's ladies auxiliary. They started their family in 1968 with the birth of a son Lester Jr. and then later in 1970, they had a daughter, Sharon. Lester Sr. ran a successful construction business in Franconia called L. V. Dove & Son, Inc. with the help of his son, Lester Jr., who is still running the business. He would help anybody out that needed it. In the wintertime, he would clear snow from the neighbors' driveways and roadways or help out whatever they would need. Everyone always came by to ask for advice or just chat. He didn't believe in buying anything new and wanted to try and fix whatever was broken. He spent time with each of his grandkids and tried to teach them how to work on cars and run machines. He just wanted them all to be successful. He was so proud of them all. He always avoided confrontation. He never wanted to argue and hated to see anybody cry. This got him taken advantage of a few too many times in his life as well.

As he got older, he was still doing construction jobs, and he looked forward to the weekends when he went dancing on Friday and Saturday nights at different clubs in the area such as Franconia Moose Lodge, JW's (The Mixing Bowl), Paradiso, and other places that he could follow around his favorite band, "Route 66." Lester Jr. worked with him up until the day before he went into the hospital. He had to get the job done before he went in to see why he was losing feeling in his hand. He was operated on last May on Memorial Day to remove a cancerous brain tumor. After the operation, he was paralyzed on the right side and spent the rest of his life in a wheelchair. The family took turns helping take care of him over the next several months. His wife was his primary keeper and made sure he was comfortable day and night, no matter who she had to call to make that happen. He passed on Friday, March 27, 2020, due to complications with this awful disease.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like contributions made to Franconia Fire

Department or Franconia Moose Lodge in his honor. They would also like to thank all of our first responders who helped out through this sickness and distress.

In light of everything that is happening in the world now with "COVID-19," the family will have a private burial at his family cemetery. There will be a large memorial later this summer, where he will have a proper firefighter's gathering for all of his friends and family.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lester Vernon Dove Sr.*

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October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *Barbara Suthard lit a candle in memory of Lester Vernon Dove Sr.*



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**Barbara Suthard** - June 16, 2021 at 12:30 AM



“ *I just learned of Lester's passing today and wanted to send my sympathies to you all. He was a wonderful man and one of the hardest working individuals I ever met. My most memorable moment with Lester was when he chained his backhoe to a loader and inched his way down a steep embankment overlooking Chain Bridge to dig footings for new townhomes. We were scared to death he would end up in the Potomac River. I remember the bridge workers cheering and clapping as he successfully completed this dangerous task. He always got the job done. He will be missed.*

*Chip Gruver*

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**chip Gruver** - May 08, 2020 at 02:51 PM

BH

“ I only had two or three meetings with Lester in the Spring of 2019 and I enjoyed every minute of them with him. He was a positive thinker and his humor was a hoot!

Bob Hartig  
McLean, VA

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Bob Hartig - April 14, 2020 at 06:02 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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Kaveh Sari - April 06, 2020 at 06:25 PM



“ I owe my house, and a whole lot more which I will never be able to repay to this gentleman. He was a gem. God bless him, I will miss him forever.

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Kaveh Sari - April 06, 2020 at 06:25 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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Kaveh Sari - April 06, 2020 at 06:23 PM

LK

“ Sending prayers to the Dove Family and friends. We will miss seeing his smiling face. We are blessed to have known him. Doug and Leigh Knickerbocker

Leigh Knickerbocker - April 04, 2020 at 09:47 AM

RC

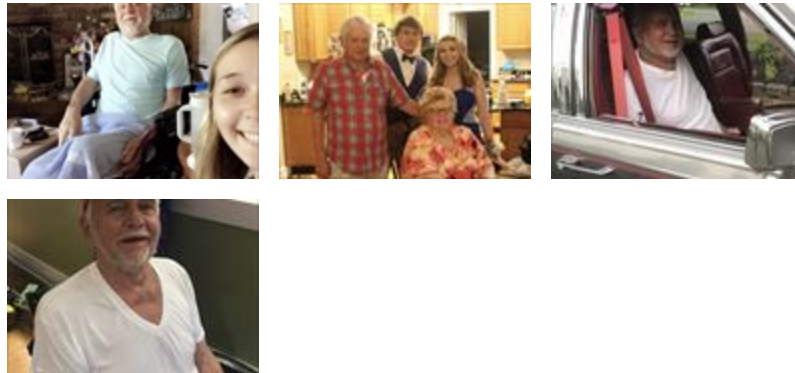
“ On behalf of many from the Franconia area and the Edison High School family, I wanted to extend my deepest condolences and sympathy to Lester Jr., Sharon, and the entire Dove family for the terrible loss, may he rest in peace. Rich Cunningham and family.



Rich Cunningham - April 03, 2020 at 08:19 PM

AN

“ Pop pop always treated me like family and reminded me a lot of my grandfather. I'm blessed that I got to know him and spend time with him. We will always love and miss you. ❤️



amber nicole - April 03, 2020 at 01:59 PM

DS

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Duane Sismour - April 05, 2020 at 05:03 AM

DS

*I am so sorry for your loss, I send prayers and love to your family I am youngest blood grandson of floyd dove (brother), I only have 1 memory of him I hold dear to my heart.*

*I was 8 years old and I met most of the family at my great uncle Eugene's house, and my mother and grandmother introduced me to everyone asking me who he is and I said "grandpa's (floyds) twin" and everyone laughed*

Duane Sismour - April 05, 2020 at 05:07 AM

AA

“ *My condolences to the Dove family . I got used to seeing him at 7/11 in the morning . I am miss my friend .*  
*Arshad Ali*

Arshad Ali - April 03, 2020 at 01:43 PM



“ *Sending our deepest condolences during this very difficult time. Prayers, Bob and Sandy Sutton*

Sandy Sutton - April 03, 2020 at 11:26 AM

KT

“ *Lester Senior Sending my condolences to the your .family you will be missed as I always say when we lose our love ones. you will be an angel looking down upon us .you were a good neighbor .*

*You were the rock of the family but you leave behind lot of little stones that can carry on where you left off.*

*Doris thanks for Sharing Lester Sr for the a Dance 🎉 Turner Family*



karen turner - April 03, 2020 at 08:45 AM

BM

“ Our deepest condolences to the Dove family. Lester was one great guy who we have known for at least 10 years. Always enjoyed meeting and talking with him. He will not be forgotten. May he rest in peace. Bill & Patty Merrill

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**Bill & Patty Merrill** - April 03, 2020 at 07:56 AM

JC

“ My Deepest condolences To the Dove family. Lester was one of the best people I have ever known. He was generous in his help to everyone and he did it with an open heart and smile on his face. Anyone who ever knew Lester could never forget him, I certainly will not. RIP

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**Joni Crabtree** - April 03, 2020 at 12:26 AM

TC

“ I'm so sorry to hear this. My condolences to all his family. Mr. Dove knew my grandfather and I came to know him through my work with the City of Alexandria. He was always telling me he could wait for the weekends to get out and cut a rug. I always enjoyed my conversations with him while waiting on permit or whatever he had to do. God speed to you, Mr. Dove! You have left a lasting impression on a lot of people!

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**Tara Currie** - April 03, 2020 at 12:22 AM

DS

“ Our condolences go out the the entire family for the loss of such a great patriarch. Les was, in fact, a terrific Dad, but, better yet, he was a terrific neighbor.

*Les did so many nice things for so many people over a lifetime that he had become a legend in the area.*

*He leaves a great void behind that I'm sure his wonderful family will attempt to fill.*

*With deeper sympathy for all,*

*Wanda and Donnie Strother,  
Stafford, Va*

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**Donnie Strother** - April 02, 2020 at 11:31 PM

DD

“ All I can say is I hope I made my grandpa proud he was a great man and a great role model. He wouldn't hesitate to help you with anything you needed and I needed him many times. He got me started working on diesels and Always told me work hard and you'll have everything you need. And I do. I just hope you are in a better place now I love you.



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**daniel dove** - April 02, 2020 at 10:00 PM

CC

“ I love this man and was so blessed to have him in my life. He was the grandfather I never had but always wanted. There’s so many things I could say about him that I don’t even know where to start. Blessed beyond measure to get to know this man.



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**Chloe Channon** - April 02, 2020 at 09:18 PM

SS

“ Lester,  
Our hearts are heavy with your passing. Your infectious smile and light-hearted personality made you a favorite to so many people. You never new a stranger. We had so many great weekends with friends at JW's. All that dancing kept us young at heart! There are so many great memories. May the LORD keep you in his care. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.  
Steve and Sally Shifflett



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**Sally Shifflett** - April 02, 2020 at 09:15 PM



“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - April 02, 2020 at 08:53 AM

DA

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Delores, Lester Jr, , Sharon, and all the family. Lester was a good person, he will be missed. RIP Lester



Debbie (Wilson) Allen - April 01, 2020 at 11:40 PM

JL

“ We lived a few doors down from the Doves, Lester was always a gentleman with a smile. We miss seeing him & the family but will have great memories of a great man. Our prayers go out to Dolores & the family.

Jimmy & Peggy Lewis - April 01, 2020 at 08:26 PM

SN

“ *Mr. Dove always had a friendly smile and wave as we often passed while out walking in the neighborhood and him in his truck. He was a "fixture" in this area and will be greatly missed. Sorry I never got to dance with him!*

*Kay Newton*

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**Sandra Newton** - April 01, 2020 at 04:15 PM