



William Dennis "Rock" Rockhill

December 5, 1948 - April 25, 2014

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Rock was born in Coalville UT to Jack and Effie Rockhill. Rock lost his mother Effie at a very early age, he spoke of her very lovingly and with a gleam in his eye the rest of his life. He moved to Sandy UT where he graduated from Jordan High School in 1967. He then married Kathy Olson, later divorced, and had two sons Jason and Damon.

Rock joined the U.S. Navy in 1968, he served in the Vietnam War for 22 months, where his bravery and valor served him well. He was cited with a Bronze Star for valor and two purple hearts along with numerous other medals and citations. He was assigned to the river boats within coastal division 11.

Rock would travel the world with the Navy, seems he had been anywhere there was to go. Rock eventually retired from the Navy with an honorable discharge. Rock truly loved life, the only thing bigger than his personality was his heart. Rocks main priority in life was to make people laugh and be the life of the party, you had to be on your toes not knowing what was coming next. After retirement Rock worked in the VA hospital in Salt Lake City, where he took extreme pleasure in serving his fellow veterans.

Rock loved many things in this world, at the top of that list is his family and his country. Rock loved to play and watch ballgames, his favorite though was golf, he loved to play with his family and friends. Anybody that ever played golf with Dad knows just how good his foot wedge was.

Rock is survived by his brothers Jeff Rockhill, Mike Day and his sister Karen Freeman, and many stepbrothers and stepsisters. His grandchildren are Allison Rockhill, Mia Rockhill, DJ Rockhill, Shea Rockhill, Kolbie Rockhill, Averie Rockhill and Baxlie Rockhill and other step grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews.

We all knew how badly you wanted to see your mom and dad again, but you left us too soon Pop. Hip Hip.

Viewing to be held Tuesday April 29, 2014 from 6 to 8pm at the LDS Draper 17th Ward, 1640 E 12700 S Draper UT 84020. Funeral to be held April 30, 2014 11:00am at the same location, with a viewing beginning at 10:00am. Burial to follow in the Marion City Cemetery 711 E 2700 N Marion UT, where he will rest next to his beloved mother.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to the family would be greatly appreciated.

Cemetery

Marion City Cemetery

711 E 2700 N

Marion, UT,

Events

APR 29 **Viewing** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

Draper 17th Ward

1640 E 12700 S, Draper, UT, US

APR 30 **Viewing** 09:00AM - 10:30AM

Draper 17th Ward

1640 E 12700 S, Draper, UT, US

APR 30 **Funeral Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Draper 17th Ward

1640 E 12700 S, Draper, UT, US

Comments



“ Let me explain my comments. Bill called me Scarlett bc he was my Rhett Butler and I was his Scarlett. I signed it Scarlett in his memory!

Scarlett - September 14, 2014 at 07:18 PM



“ I just heard the sad news. I've known Bill since I was 14. He was my first boyfriend. I would watch his wrestling matches at Jordan High School and we went to one or more dances together there. We have been close many many times, but I lost touch when I moved to Moab recently. He liked to call me SCARLETT! I told him once that he was much more like an ex husband to me than an ex boyfriend. He had an amazing personality! He loved his kids and grand kids more than anything and he never stopped bragging about them! I am so sorry for your loss!

Scarlett - September 14, 2014 at 03:25 PM



“ I was shocked this morning when a friend told me about Rock. What a great guy. We shared many good golf games and although I had not seen Bill for about five years, I was thinking about him the other day. My condolences to the family. He will be missed.

Donna Jackson - May 16, 2014 at 12:28 PM



“ I went to High School with Rock. After graduation I didnt see him again until summer of 2013. He made me smile with his honesty. He warmed my heart with his humor and genuine caring of other human beings. Over this last year through the internet he cheered me on as I would tell him of a difficult day. I am a Hospice Nurse. He was constantly reminding me that Hospice Nurses play a special role in a persons life at a very intense important part of their life. He uplifted me many times. I feel privledged to have shared conversations with him during this last year. I am proud of him for serving our country. I will never forget last summer when he showed me his toe nails, all painted a different color. as he showed them to me he beamed with pride when he said, my Grandkids painted them. arent they spectacular. I believe he had a heart of gold. RIP my friend until we meet again.

Christine DeVisser Bramsen - April 30, 2014 at 09:24 PM



“ I recently have been taking my dad to therapy at the VA. My dad is a World War II Vet. The first time we met Rock my dad was so impressed with him because of the way he greeted him and when we left he got up and walked around his desk, handed my dad a appointment slip, shook his hand and thanked his for his service. We are going to miss Rock every time we go up to the VA we will think of him.

ROCK, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Perry Tucker, proud son on Ralph L Tucker WWII veteran.

Perry Tucker - April 30, 2014 at 01:43 PM



“ Rock was a very special man. I work in a department near Physical Therapy and would stop in to say "hi". He always had a kind word , enthusiasm and was very proud of his grandchildren. He will be very missed. It's just not the same atmosphere without his happy, brash, outgoing personality to greet you in the morning.

Shelley (US)



Shelley - April 30, 2014 at 11:16 AM



“ "Rock" was my friend at the V.A. He always remembered me and we shared the time of day while I checked in to therapy! He was a great guy and always made everyone feel like you were long lost friends. He really was my friend! He will surely be missed!

Dan Miner USMC - April 29, 2014 at 09:15 PM



“ Why is it that even though I told Rock every day not to eat hot dogs for breakfast or he would have a stroke....I can't believe he isn't sitting in his chair, at his desk with his mug to welcome me when I get to the VA in the morning. I want to hear another story, I want to hear what great things he did over the weekend (even if it was just a story of what Little Rock caught and brought to him as a gift).
I had the fortune of being totally manipulated by Rock into sharing how I truly felt about him when Anne and I visited him at the U after his car accident. He was making jokes, of course, but he wanted us to know how much he 'loved us girls'. I, of course, told him to knock it off.....but figured he had come close enough that maybe he really wanted us to know.....so I told him, "I love ya Rock....you know that".
I am pretty sure I will keep looking for him to welcome me in the morning....I didn't see this one coming. He was a very proud, generous and loving man....this world will miss you very much.....as will I.
Tonua

Tonua - April 29, 2014 at 09:02 PM



“ I'll never forget you Rock!! You were always so much fun to be with and laughter filled the room when you were around. Thanks for your incredible service to our country???? You'll be greatly missed. Rest in Peace. Love You.

Debbie Wilde Hunt - April 29, 2014 at 07:40 PM



“ It was always nice watching Rock interact with fellow veterans. His gruff, pleasant sense of humor was loved and always made you smile. Physical therapy isn't always a pleasant experience. However, with Rock there to greet you and reschedule your follow-up appointments the experience was much more palatable. We at the Veterans Medical Center salute you rock and thank you for your service in the Navy as well as for your service to all of us here at the VA Medical Center. We remember you and will always hold those memories in a special place in our hearts.

Thanks for "Taking Point" on this one....
Bruce Sperry

Bruce - April 29, 2014 at 03:20 PM



“ "I first met Rock several years ago in the Navy," He had this way of making me smile, when I retired from the Navy "Rock" gave me one of his "Navy Seals" coin for my shadow box. I will always treasure it! You will be missed Buddy.
Mary West

Mary West - April 29, 2014 at 02:14 PM



“ Rock and I worked at the VA together. He always made me feel like I was the most important person in the world. I fully enjoyed listening to his wild life stories. More than anything, I will remember how much he talked about his family, especially those who were symbolized permanently by his rose tattoos. What a wonderful man. Emily Potter

Emily Potter - April 29, 2014 at 01:52 PM



“ I worked with Rock at the VA. He always put the Veteran first and foremost and then was so humble about it. He was a big teddy bear and I was saddened to hear he was taken from us so early. Like others, I always wanted to spirit his coffee cup away for a good scrubbing but he said that the coffee tasted better that way. He will be missed.

Terrie McWhorter - April 29, 2014 at 11:27 AM



“ Audrey Miner lit a candle in memory of William Dennis "Rock" Rockhill



Audrey Miner - April 29, 2014 at 11:12 AM



“ Prayers go out to all... I worked with Rock at the VA Hospital. I liked talking to him because he always made me laugh and he always shared a story with me. You will be dearly missed Rock. -Audrey Miner

Audrey Miner - April 29, 2014 at 11:11 AM



“ I WAS FORTUNATE TO SERVE WITH ROCK IN THE US NAVY, IN 1999 WE DID A DECOMISSIONED TOUR IN PANAMA WITH USS MCKEE WE HAD A LOT OF FUN OUT THERE AND ON ANNUAL TRAINING WITH OUR UNIT IN SAN DIEGO AND I WAS FORTUNATE AGAIN TO WORK WITH HIM HERE AT THE VA HOSPITAL ALWAYS FUN TO TALK TO AND HE CARE FOR EVERY ONE, MAKE YOUR DAY A TOTAL BLAST SURE WILL MISSED YOU ROCK. SHIPMATE RUBY.C

RUBY.C - April 30, 2014 at 05:21 PM



“ Rock you will be deeply missed! I will never forget your "dirty old" coffee mug that you drank out of every day and how much crap I gave you about washing it! I had the privilege to work with Rock at the SLC VA and he truly enjoyed his job serving his fellow veterans. Rock may you rest in peace!



Ashly Olsen - April 29, 2014 at 10:59 AM



“ Rock was a true vet. always willing to help other vets at the va hospital. Proud to call friend. John Carlson USMC Vet

John Carlson - April 29, 2014 at 09:55 AM



“ Cuzin' Rock,

I have so many memories of times spent with you & our family over many years that I will cherish. It was always so good to talk to you & catch up on what was happening with our families. You left us too soon & will be truly missed.

You must have had a sweet reunion with so many loved ones waiting to greet you.

Give an extra hug to my dad & brothers - sure do miss them too!

Love You!!

Your california connection cousin,

Cheryl

Cheryl (Wilde) Riley - April 29, 2014 at 12:39 AM



“ I will miss Rock so much! He was a delight to talk with--such an easy going smile and attitude and yes, a big hug. He worked with my husband in PT and they were great buddies. Every time I saw him he would say "So, when are you going to leave that man for me?" Such humor and kindness! RIP my sweet man Rock.....Linda & Leon Strausser

Linda Strausser - April 28, 2014 at 04:21 PM



“ The first time I met Rock, I was registering as new pt at the VA and setting up an appointment for a bad shoulder. The way he smiled, and the warmth in his hug made me feel so at home. Even after I became an employee here, and then our team lead, I never came or went from PT without that hug. Many days it was what kept me from going insane. Rock's smile, love, and warmth were infectious. I will miss him everyday.

Kat Lambourne - April 28, 2014 at 03:48 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



A Thack - April 28, 2014 at 03:18 PM



“ This is Rock with a smile. Someone bet Rock would never wear a tie to work...

A Thack - April 28, 2014 at 03:19 PM



“ I send my deepest condolences to your family during this difficult time. He will be missed by many. He was most definitely the life of the party. We enjoyed so many fun times together with our family. My Dad (Bruce) & him had a very special bond & because of that I too enjoyed his presence. Thank you for looking out for me Rockhill after Dad passed away, and thank you for all you've done for my family! We'll miss your visit this summer & we'll see you again someday!

Much Love,
Jenn (Wilde) Moore

Jenn Moore - April 27, 2014 at 10:46 PM



“ Pops you will sadly be missed by many people. I really didn't know how many tell you passed Ive tried my best to let everybody that you have moved on hope I did good enough. Lots of people loved you pops but nobody more than me.I keep waiting for you to holler "will somebody get me a water" RIP have cold ones ready for me when I get their.

Jason Rockhill - April 27, 2014 at 10:39 PM



“ I loved rock....I was in the grocery store on Saturday and was getting some groceries with Jason Rockhill. A young boy named Colin Benson was bagging the groceries. He learned through Jason that his dad had passed away. The boy was taken back by the news and looked almost shocked. He then said, "I want you to know that Rock gave me his bronze star when I was seven years old. I have it hanging in my room and think about Rock every day"

That tells you something about Rock. He gives one of his prized metals to Colin. No one knows, no fanfare, no announcements, he just privately gives something worth allot to him to to a young man to treasure.

Rock knew that giving this metal would mean something to him with the hope that this person could possibly earn a bronze metal himself. A big heart, selfless service and encouragement for future solders that would stand up for our country, formed the backbone of this great man.

We will miss you Rock!

Al and DeeAnn Jensen

al jensen - April 27, 2014 at 10:55 PM



“ What a great man, who as we can all see will be missed! He always had a joke or a story(which always made me blush and laugh). He is a true hero, a wonderful man, and one of a kind spirit! We all loved working with you Rock!

Love Ya Buddy!!

Heather Marshall

Heather Marshall - April 30, 2014 at 08:59 AM



“ Rock, you squiddy, will miss you. But will always remember your smile and wit. But more importantly, the love you had for your grandchildren. You are a great man, yeah, I mean you.

Tom Wenner~US Army (RET)

Tom Wenner - May 05, 2014 at 05:20 PM