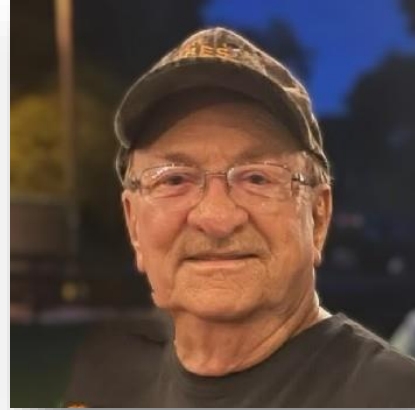


Gary R Ayres, age 77, fought relentlessly but finally lost his nearly 20-year battle with cancer on September 7, 2023 under the compassionate and comforting care at the Vitas Hospice House in Lecanto FL.. Gary was a loyal and loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend.

He was born on July 14, 1946, in Staten Island, NY, to Robert W Ayres and Anita O'Meara Ayres. Gary served his country in the US Navy from 1965-1967 serving in the Vietnam War. He moved to New Jersey in 1974 where he and his then wife, Patricia Canavan Ayres Schabruch raised their three children. He moved here to Pine Ridge in Beverly Hills in 1992 and has been residing in Black Diamond since 2015. Gary's many careers have included working on Wall Street, 17 years with Brockway Glass, owning/operating a frame & paint shop, a mini storage and a U-Haul franchise, sales with both Central Florida Gas & AmeriGas Propane and finally retiring in 2021 after 10 years as a Realtor in Citrus County.



Gary was an avid outdoorsman and of his greatest joys in life he loved to go fishing, hunting and golfing with his son, Bobby. Gary was known for his dry humor and quick wit, his funny stories and most of all his talent of saying those things out loud that most people would only think to say because he loved to see the expressions on their faces. He was a fighter, a disabled veteran who fought proudly for his country and, as so many of our country's veterans after all the exposures, traumas and challenges of wartime, including agent orange, fought for his physical and mental health most of his adult life.

Gary leaves behind his loving wife, Nancy Ayres of Lecanto, Florida, son Robert (Pamela) Ayres of Floral City, FL, Daughter Christine (Nicholas) Romanelli of Grand Island, FL, Daughter, Kelly (Derrall) Williamson of Ocala, FL, Granddaughter Samantha (Jay) Dorris of Nashville, TN, Granddaughter Lisa Romanelli, and Grandson, Nicholas Romanelli Jr, of Grand Island, FL, Great-Grandson Everett Dorris and Great-Granddaughter Hazel Dorris, Step Daughters Heather Kellner(Dustin) of Bend, OR and Hillary Colvin(Bryan) of Asheville, NC, step grandson Harrison Kellner, step granddaughters Kailyn Williamson and Brianna Reed, and step great-grandchildren Katelynn and Jade Fernandez. He also leaves behind great memories and close relationships with cousins, Mark Ayres, Howard Ayres and Molly Ayres Mellor, of Maryland.

Funeral Services will be held at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Hernando, FL, receiving friends from 10:00-11:00 with service at 11:00, followed by burial with honors at the Florida National Cemetery at 1:00 in Bushnell. In leu of flowers, please consider a donation to support Wounded Warriors or Vitas Hospice of Citrus County.