

George Anthony Rizzo, age 80, of Citrus Springs, FL, passed away July 12, 2024 at Tampa General Hospital, Crystal River. George was born on April 3, 1944 in Poughkeepsie, NY to Leonard and Martha (Saso) Rizzo. He has lived in Florida since the 1970s, in Miami, Davie and Hollywood, before coming to Citrus County about 7 years ago.

From a young age, he took an interest in cars and as a teenager began working at his family's car dealership, Rizzo Ford, in Highland, NY. What followed was over 50 years of working in the auto body repair industry. With a lifetime of experience and a garage full of tools and jars with every kind of nut, bolt and screw in them, he could fix just about anything.

George loved the outdoors, especially canoeing and walking through the Everglades and various local and state parks with his wife, Ellie. He loved bird-watching, doing crosswords and reading novels. He made the best smoked jerk chicken. He was generous with his time and talents and was always willing to lend a helping hand to someone in need. He was loyal, supportive, dependable, stubborn, quirky and wise (and he was always right). He always had a knife in his pocket so he was prepared for anything (mostly opening stuff!).



Together for over 34 years, he was a wonderful and loving husband to his wife Ellie. He loved his family fiercely, called everyone at least weekly, and never missed a birthday or special occasion. He always put his family first. MORE.

In addition to his parents, George was preceded in death by his brother, Leonard Rizzo, Jr., his daughter, Heather Kelts and his best friend, Art White.

Survived by his wife, Eleanor "Ellie" Rizzo; five children, Wendy Blanchard and her husband Drew, Jennifer Petrino and her husband David, Heath Kelts and his wife Michelle, Tracy Kelts and his wife Lahona, and Tammy Grace; siblings, Maria Ruberto, Joey Rizzo and Mark Rizzo and his wife Cathy; grandchildren, Rachel Blanchard, Trenten Blanchard, Francesca Petrino, Conor Kelts, Emma Kelts, Morgan Kelts, Madison Kelts, Tyler Grace and Trevor Grace; the McGee family who he loved and they loved him, and his cat, Ming.

Private cremation will take place under the direction of Brown Funeral Home and Crematory in Lecanto, FL.