



## Dean Gaffin

August 21, 1936 - January 26, 2016

"And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, 'I need a caretaker.' So God made a farmer." Paul Harvey

Delano Dean Gaffin, known by his family and friends as "Dean," 79, beloved son, brother, husband, father, step-grandfather, uncle, and cherished friend passed away on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at a hospice facility in Adams County, Ohio, USA.

Born in Peebles, Ohio on August 21, 1936, Dean was a son of the Great Depression and the youngest of the nine offspring of Joseph "Elmer" Gaffin and Mary Evalena "Lena" Caplinger Gaffin. Dean and his mother, who died at the age of 99 in 2001, lived to see the passing of his father and her husband Elmer, and of his brothers and her elder sons Marlin "Bob" Gaffin; Lowell "Bussy" Gaffin; Gary "Dick" Gaffin and Joseph "Dale" Gaffin. In addition, both Dean and Lena outlived his sisters and her daughters Dorothy Gaffin; Roma Gaffin Greene; Reva Gaffin McDaniel and Mary "Bette" Gaffin Chenoweth. Dean was also one of the thousands of namesakes of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was President of the United States at the time of his birth. And like FDR, and FDR's father, and his own father, Dean was a farmer. Although he had been quite ill for several weeks, he wasn't diagnosed with his final illness until a few days before his death. Upon learning of it, he said to his loved-ones. "I've loved being a farmer. I wouldn't have wanted to live any other life. Not everyone can say that."

Described as an "Old-School Country Farmer," Dean was well-regarded and quite famous in his community, as was his farm, which sits on the rim of the Great Serpent Mound Crater. Dean was a reliable and friendly host to friends and strangers alike who visited his farm often to take in the spectacular, panoramic view of the crater from the front lawn of the farmhouse.

Dean and local farm-girl, beautiful Nellie Compton married when both of them were only eighteen years of age. Soon thereafter, the couple moved to the Lebanon/Oregonia, Ohio area where Dean landed a desk job at a local company. During those few years, Dean lived a kind of double life: behind a desk during the week and behind a plow on his parent's farm on every weekend. Despite the promise by his employer of a glowing future as a business executive, Dean decided to put his acute business sense to work as a farmer. His father having grown too ill to continue farming, Dean's parents sold him their farm in 1966 and moved to a little house on West Fifth Avenue in town center of Peebles. Not only was the farm saved, but it thrived under Dean's diligence and hard-work. For many years, he specialized in dairy farming, but changed to raising beef cattle in the latter decades of his tenure. He also raised chickens and bred champion coon hounds, being an active member of the Coon Hunters Club in his younger years.

In 1999, Dean lost Nellie to Alzheimer's Disease, after having been her devoted and sole caregiver for the several years of her illness. He will be interred beside her and among his parents and numerous members of his family at Cedar Fork Cemetery in Peebles. He is survived by his daughter Deana Gaffin Grooms, his son-in-law Russell Grooms, and Russell's daughter Juliana Grooms Staten, her husband Kevin Staten and their young children Brycen and Ashlah, all of them residents of Adams County, Ohio. For the past fifteen years, Dean's life was enriched immeasurably by his beloved companion, caregiver, and very special friend, Hillsboro, Ohio resident Thelma Rose, as well as by her children and grandchildren. Dean was blessed with many friends and a large family of surviving nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews, all of whom adored him and will miss him greatly. Dean

was the last of his generation of the Gaffin family. He bore the torch well. He stood tall and proud and strong. He was a gentleman, through and through. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations in memory of D. Dean Gaffin to be directed to the Ohio Valley Hospice of Hope, 230 Medical Center Drive, Seaman, Ohio 45679.

Friday, January 29, 2016

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Friday, January 29, 2016

1:00 PM

# Tribute Wall

JO

“ I will miss you so much Uncle Dean! Even though you are my great uncle I have always called you Uncle Dean. I love you very much. We all take comfort in knowing you are no longer in pain and you are with all of our other loved ones. Love you always and forever! Until we meet again.

Jeremy and Lisa Dickey of Hillsboro, Ohio - January 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

VF

“ Thoughts ,Prayers & Love to Deana and family. Beautiful obituary.

Vicki (Clark) Walden of Florida - January 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

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“ Deanna, So sorry for your loss, as Dave and I both know, even though their bodies have faded from their glory days, and health is not good, it is still so painful to let them go. I only seen this today, so missed the opportunity of being their and telling you personally that I am praying for you, and thinking of you at this time. We were so lucky to have farmers for our fathers, it was a wonderful way to be raised. God bless you and give you the strength to do all that is required of you at this time. Love, Christy

David & Christy (Knauff) Snider of Hills boro, Ohio 45133 - January 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

VF

“ Thoughts,Prayers & Love to Deana. & Family Beautiful Obituary

Vicki(Clark)Walden of Florida - January 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ You will be truly missed Uncle Dean...That is what I always called you. Love you so much...

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**Christina Seawell of Chillicothe OH** - January 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



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**James and Jillian Lightner of Belfast Ohio** - January 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM