

A Tribute To The Hat Lady's Colonel

By: Terry M. Weatherby

Harvey Beard died at the age of 75 on September 17, 1996. He received full military honors and was buried at Jefferson Barracks cemetery on Friday, September 19, 1996.

Harvey initially realized he was in love when he was mesmerized with with a girl walking across the street when she was 13 and he was 14. Lafern and Harvey quickly became inseparable, attending and sharing the experiences of grade school and high school in the 1930's.

He asked her to marry him at Jefferson Barracks Park, not too far from where he rests today. She was the center of his existence from that instant until the moment that a heart attack took him.

They enjoyed a rich and fulfilling life together with military travel virtually all over the world. They shared cherished memories with dear friends on many continents. After military retirement as a colonel, Harvey enjoyed a second career with Prudential Insurance where he spent over 32 years until retirement.

Both had a wide range of interests and advocations. Their wonderful daughter, Pam continues the proud tradition of involvement and commitment to the canine population.

Lafern became referred to as the "Hat Lady", when their many travels and destinations normally resulted in a new and different hat for each trip. The "Hat Lady" always dressed for every occasion, and her collection today boasts more than one hat for every day of the year.

In spite of all the activities and responsibilities, the Colonel and The Hat Lady never failed to verbalize their unique love for each other each day that God gave them together. They were married for 53 years, and they were together for 61 years.

Continuation Of A
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The colonel was a pivotal member of the Gateway To The West's Board Of Directors. We will treasure his contributions, and we will miss him. Sertomian, Mike Jarzewiak and his wife Sandy will miss Harvey as if he were a father. The Hat Lady will receive no more hats from the colonel, but the rich fabric of their deep relationship will fill her memories for each of her remaining days.

No, life will not be the same without the colonel next to his Hat Lady. But none of us will forget him or his influence.

If I could ask the colonel one question from where he is today, it would be "How could two people be together for over 60 years, and never have a fight or argument?"