



## Ruben Sam Grooms

July 28, 1938 - January 22, 2023

Ruben Sam Grooms, (84) of Summerville, a South Carolina Army Nation Guard and U.S. Air Force Veteran, Retired supervisor in the Calibration Laboratory of the Polaris Missile Facility, Atlantic (POMFLANT) and husband of Shari Grooms, passed away on Sunday, January, 22, 2023.

Family and friends are invited to a visitation on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 10 o'clock, at James A. Dyal Funeral Home. The funeral will be at 11am, Thursday, January 26, 2023 in the James A. Dyal Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow at the Summerville Cemetery. Flowers will be accepted.

Mr. Grooms was born 28, July 1938 in the Dorchester County Hospital, Summerville, SC. The son of the late Sam Ruben Grooms and Florrie Bazzle Grooms. He enlisted in the U.S. Airforce at the age of 17 and served with the 433rd Fighter Interceptor Squadron known as "Satan's Angels" for three years in Alaska and was there when the territory became the 49th state.

He then engaged in the Cold War Atlas and Titan II I.C.B.M. missile site activation in six states across the USA and rose to the position of Electronic Supervisor at the age of 21 on the First Atlas Kansas to be turned over to the U.S.A.F. "Ready to Launch". His technical background then led him to the Kennedy Space Center during the Gemini, Apollo and Skylab Space programs. He advanced to Launch Support Team Supervisor and had the opportunity to meet three of the seven original astronauts along with several others including three of "Apollo 13" Fame also and several dignitaries including President Johnson and General Westmoreland.

Some of his highlights was the chance to sit in the Gemini 5 Spacecraft after its 8th day return to Earth. Another highlight was knowing that his right-hand print is still on the Moon under the Lunar Module Stanchion that Neil Armstrong climbed down during the "Apollo 11" lunar landing and moon walk. He returned to Summerville in 1973 and retired as a supervisor in the calibration laboratory from the Polaris Missile Facility Atlantic in 1993. He

sometimes said his whole working career was about missiles and national defense. After retirement he designed and built his new home and continued his life-long hobby in guns.

He is survived by his wife, Shari Lynn Dickinson Grooms; Daughters: Michelle Grooms of Fort Collins, CO; Jennifer Davis and husband Kevin of Summerville; Son, Kenneth Steve Grooms of Florida; Siblings: Jewell Bernard of Goose Creek, SC, Brother, Ben Grooms of St. Mary's, GA; Six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He was predeceased in death by his son, Ruben John Grooms and brother, Michael Grooms.

# Cemetery Details

## Summerville Cemetery

Hwy 17A Boone Hill Road  
Summerville, SC 29483

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 26.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

James A. Dyal Funeral Home  
303 S. Main Street  
Summerville, SC 29483  
(843) 873-4040  
<https://www.jamesadyal.com>

## Funeral Service

**JAN 26.** 11:00 AM (ET)

James A. Dyal Funeral Home  
303 S. Main Street  
Summerville, SC 29483  
(843) 873-4040  
<https://www.jamesadyal.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Shari, I am so sorry about Ruben's passing. I'm sorry I didn't get to meet him but when talking with you, I know he made you happy. Thinking of you, Becky*

Rebecca Curtis - January 26, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Ruben Sam Grooms.*



January 25, 2023 at 02:06 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ruben Sam Grooms.*



January 25, 2023 at 09:20 AM



“ *I remember him holding his new baby girl, Michelle, in one hand giving her to his Aunt, my Mother, Ruth Grooms Smith, in Coco, FL. when we first met her. He was so good with my Daddy's mother who lived in Coco, FL too.*

Sylvia - January 24, 2023 at 08:58 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ruben Sam Grooms.*



January 24, 2023 at 08:28 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Ruben Sam Grooms.*



January 24, 2023 at 07:52 PM

MG

“ *A few photos*



**Michelle Grooms** - January 24, 2023 at 05:53 PM

VF

“ *Through wife, Shart, Ruben became a treasured friend who will be missed very much. They were such a loving and caring couple who were a joy to be with . Thank you Family for sharing such a special husband and father with us. We,too, will miss him.*

**Virginia Fralick** - January 24, 2023 at 05:05 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ruben Sam Grooms.*



January 24, 2023 at 04:49 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ruben Sam Grooms.*



January 24, 2023 at 04:40 PM

AS

“ Amanda Stanley sent a virtual gift in memory of Ruben Sam Grooms



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**Amanda Stanley** - January 24, 2023 at 04:03 PM

AS

*Thinking of you Michelle. Sending a big hug. Praying for all at this time.*

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**Amanda Stanley** - January 24, 2023 at 04:06 PM



*As my first cousin, I have many memories of us. He taught me how to ride his white horse. Slept many nights at his house and Aunt Floria always cooked a great supper. We double-dated, swam in the ditch with his siblings when it rained, while Aunt Floria stood watching on the steps of their white house. As young men in our twenties, we went to Honky Tonking. As we went our different paths and later met, it was always great to see his smile and chat. I and others will miss him.*

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**Al Smith** - January 25, 2023 at 05:52 PM