



Maurice "Sam" Rice

September 19, 1947 - February 23, 2021

Maurice "Sam" Rice, 73, of Wauseon, Ohio died Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at St. Luke's Hospital. He was born September 19, 1947 in Napoleon, Ohio to the late Wilbur "Pete" and Lavon (Gilliland) Rice. Maurice was given the nickname of "Sam" by a neighbor man at a young age and from that point on that was what everyone called him. Sam attended the Malinta-Grelton school and attained his GED in the Army. He served in the United States Army from 1967-1969, spending one year in Ft. Knox and one year in Alaska. On July 8, 1967 he married Virginia (Elling) Rice at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Liberty Center. Since the age of 15 Sam was a born mechanic. He worked for Snyder Chevrolet, Napoleon, Roger Miller Ford, Wagner Motors, Turnpike Travelers, and Lammon Motorcycles in Wauseon where he became known as "Honda Sam". In 1982, Sam ventured out on his own and started Rice Repair, working on motorcycles, cars, and small trucks. Sam liked the challenge and would try to fix anything. Sometimes you would see boats, farm tractors and even lawn mowers at the shop.

Sam loved camping along the Maumee river in the summertime, where he enjoyed fishing to catch that elusive big fish. He was also a NASCAR enthusiast. He was a lifelong member of the VFW Post 7424, Wauseon. Sam was a jokester and always had a story to tell. He was also a prankster, and no one was safe when he was around. Whether he was throwing smoke bombs, yelling "Fire!" or tossing something stinky in the back of some one's pickup truck or even hooking up your brake lights to your horn so when you turned a corner your horn would blow. He loved life and lived each day to the fullest.

Sam will be missed by his wife, Virginia; sons, Tim (Jackie) Rice and Todd (Amy) Rice; grandchildren, Dalton, Alexi (Andy Parish), and Ava; Great Grandchildren, Gabby, A.J., and Leesy Parish; siblings, Judy (Don) Terwilliger, Karen (Bob) Gibbs, Alma Hartman, and sister-in-law, Pam Rice. He was also preceded in death by a granddaughter, Haley Rice; siblings, Chuck and Frank Rice; and brother-in-law, Fritz Hartman.

A public viewing will be held on Sunday, February 28th from 1-6 p.m. at Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday at the funeral home. Masks and social distancing will be required. Interment will follow in Wauseon Union Cemetery where military rites will be accorded.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Wauseon Fire Department or the Fulton County

Senior Center.

Online condolences may be made at www.rodembergergray.com

Cemetery Details

Wauseon Union Cemetery

15165 State Highway 2
Wauseon, OH

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 28. 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Napoleon Funeral Home
1010 Westmoreland Avenue
Napoleon, OH 43545
(419) 592-2333
help@rodenbergergray.com

Funeral Service

MAR 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

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1010 Westmoreland Avenue
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Tribute Wall

RB

“ *Great talks at the V .great memories. Dick Bryant (dicky bird)*

richard bryant - February 28, 2021 at 11:00 AM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Maurice "Sam" Rice.*



February 27, 2021 at 05:09 PM

CE

“ *Chad Elling purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of Maurice "Sam" Rice.*



Chad Elling - February 26, 2021 at 08:00 PM

BM

“ *One of the good ones gone to soon. I was still family to all of you, I still love the family and will keep you in my thoughts and prayers. He always had a smile and was a great prankster.*

barbara mercer - February 26, 2021 at 03:13 PM

RE

“ *Virginia,*

So sorry to hear about Sam's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Ron Ernsberger

Ronald Earl Ernsberger - February 26, 2021 at 08:02 AM

CS

“ Sending Prayers for comfort and knowing God has His arms around you and your family Virginia. 🙏
Connie and Dennis Sperry

Connie Sperry - February 25, 2021 at 08:54 PM

LJ

“ Oh no no no. Virginia so sorry to hear of Sams passing. Have known the ornery guy since I was 15....I was always hoping to run into you two at Fulton County Fair. Grelton has lost one of their own sons. May God give you comfort in your time of sorrow. Such a loss.

Much love & memories
Linda Johnson

Linda Jihnsen - February 25, 2021 at 01:44 PM

LS

“ So sorry to hear of Sam's passing! My heart goes out to you, Virginia, and all the rest of the family. Even if I did not cross paths with him for many years - he always knew me and had a story to share. I wonder what orneriness he and the rest of the Grelton boys are getting into up stairs?? Dad, Chuck, Frank, Nick, Uncle Herb - oh my - What a reunion - and Lavon is probably standing herd over them all!
God's blessings to you all - and may your memories bring you comfort,
Laurie (Joy) Schey

Laurie Schey - February 25, 2021 at 12:45 PM

RC

“ Sending love to Ginny and family! Roger has told many stories of the fun with Sam! Loved driving the golf cart to your camper to visit! Sam told the best jokes!! He will be missed!

Roger Rice and Judy Cline - February 25, 2021 at 12:28 PM

JC

“ Judy Cline lit a candle in memory of Maurice "Sam" Rice



Judy Cline - February 25, 2021 at 12:25 PM

PA

“ Virginia and Family, so sorry for your loss. You have our sympathy and prayers at this sad time. Paul & Mary Arruda

Paul & Mary Arruda - February 25, 2021 at 10:07 AM

JR

“ im gonna miss all the jokes he says. and he was a great man. he used to tell me hi trouble evertime we see each other. and I always tell him im nit trouble and he said if you are mikes daughter then you are trouble. and all the good times together with great grandma rice. I can keep on going. im gonna miss him abd I always gonna love him. prayers to the whole family. your great niece Jessica almaguer (rice)

jessica almaguer (rice) - February 24, 2021 at 08:56 PM

BH

“ Bad jokes, but made me laugh always. I could always count on you to be there for me to talk to. Uncle Sam is the true meaning of family. I love you. Barb.

Barbara Hobbs - February 24, 2021 at 08:31 PM

JG

“ Our hearts are broken😭😭 Loved that man so much!! He made me laugh ALWAYS!! When things were bad he was always a friend I could count on!! He always called me “SIS” which I always felt a great compliment!! He is now at peace-not grasping for air or wondering what tomorrow would be!! Hope the BIG MAN upstairs is ready for a bunch of great jokes!! Loved when we rode motorcycles together!! He was the best at them, riding , fixing , he missed the training course cause I put it in the ditch!! Miss you Sam❤️FOREVER IN MY HEART❤️❤️

Jerrie Gray - February 24, 2021 at 07:49 PM



“ Adoration Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Maurice "Sam" Rice.



February 24, 2021 at 07:26 PM

DC

“ A priest and a mechanic go into a bar..... sadly Uncle Sam would be the only one with the punch line..😞 RIP Uncle Sam..... A world without your humor seems so sad to me. Love and miss you.

Dawn Cessna - February 24, 2021 at 06:14 PM

MN

“ Rest Easy Uncle Sam,, Thank you for the 42 yrs of wonderful memories sure gonna miss your pranks and your joke's you always did to me , Prayers to My Aunt and cousins and their family I will always remember and love you Uncle Sam ❤️



Michelle Nadeau - February 24, 2021 at 06:06 PM

TS

“ Teresa Salinas lit a candle in memory of Maurice "Sam" Rice



Teresa Salinas - February 24, 2021 at 04:51 PM