



Hillis Arthur Pratt, Jr.

January 28, 1955 - August 9, 2022

Hillis Arthur Pratt, Jr., 67, of North Port, Florida, passed away at the Tidewell Hospice House in Port Charlotte, Florida, on August 9, 2022. He was born January 28, 1955, in Jonesboro, Arkansas, to Hillis and Viola Pratt.

He was a proud 21 month liver transplant survivor.

He and his beloved wife Nivea had recently retired to Florida. He was a member of Mineral Baptist Church in Mineral, Virginia. He was raised in Fisher Street United Methodist Church in Jonesboro, and was a certified lay speaker for the Methodist church in Virginia.

He graduated from Jonesboro High School in 1973, the class that had graduation delayed because the school was destroyed by a tornado. He attended the Missouri Institute of Technology in Kansas City and the University of Missouri in Rolla. He was a member of the Delta Tau Delta Fraternity while at UMR.

He served in the U. S. Navy for nine years as a nuclear electronics technician and earned his nickname "Spike."

He was active in the Lion's Club while living in Virginia, serving as president and zone chairman. He retired in 2019 from Dominion, North Anna Power

Station in Virginia as a Senior Nuclear Process Computer Systems Specialist.

Survivors include his wife of 34 years, Nivea Pratt of the home; a special family, Stephanie, Chris, Jamison and Julian French of Christiansburg, Virginia; sister Sara Dickey and husband Bruce of Paragould, Arkansas; sister-in-law Maria Rivera and brother-in-law German Rivera, both of Bayamon, Puerto Rico; nephew Sam Dickey and niece Sally Cunningham; great nieces Berry and Ella, all of Paragould; two aunts, several cousins, and a host of many friends far and wide.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents Lena and Charlie Gambill and Lena and Pink Pratt; many aunts and uncles; and four cousins.

Pallbearers are German Rivera, Bruce Dickey, Lynn Redwine, Andrew Colby, and Jack Furtado.

Honorary pallbearers are Sam Dickey, Randy Emerson, Charlie Emerson, Dr. Greg Gambill, Darren Gambill, Glenn Bridger, Jerry Howard, Randall Pratt, Dr. Richard Stevenson, Joe Gonzales, Jim Wilder, Dominion co-workers, and dear Mineral, Louisa, and North Port friends and neighbors.

Visitation will be Wednesday, August 17, 2022, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and Thursday 9:30-11:00 a.m. at Toale Brothers Funeral Home in Venice, Florida. Rev. Mark Denison will officiate the funeral service, and burial will be at Sarasota National Cemetery at 1:30 p.m. Eastern time with military honors.

In lieu of flowers, please consider Mineral Baptist Church (51 Louisa Avenue, Louisa, VA 23117), Fisher Street United Methodist Church (301 N. Fisher Street, Jonesboro, AR 72401), or the charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 17. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - Ewing Chapel
140 E. Venice Ave
Venice, FL 34285
(941) 488-7737
info@toalebrothers.com
<https://www.toalebrothers.com/>

Visitation

AUG 18. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - Ewing Chapel
140 E. Venice Ave
Venice, FL 34285
(941) 488-7737
info@toalebrothers.com
<https://www.toalebrothers.com/>

Graveside Service

AUG 18. 1:30 PM (ET)

Sarasota National Cemetery
9810 State Rd 72
Sarasota, FL 34241
(941) 922-7200

Tribute Wall

MM

“ We started the same day 32 years ago at North Anna Power Station. Hillis was a good man and a true friend. I will miss him. Very sorry for your loss Nivea. Rest in Peace Spike..
Mike Maransky

Mike Maransky - August 22, 2022 at 09:17 AM

SD

Thank you for your comments, Mike. His work friends (and all other friends, too) were so important to him. He treasured each of you and spoke so fondly of you. From his sister Sara

Sara Dickey - August 25, 2022 at 09:10 PM

PO

“ I was fortunate enough to work with Hillis at North Anna Power Station for a few Refuel Outages. Hillis was a brilliant man and a great friend. I learned quite a lot from him. He will be missed.

Pete O'Leary

Peter OLeary - August 22, 2022 at 08:35 AM

SD

Thank you for your comments, Pete. He enjoyed his work friends so very much. He would talk of how brilliant his co-workers were, too. He admired each of you and treasured every friend he had. It's comforting to read about him. I agree with all of the comments on the page. His sister Sara

Sara Dickey - August 25, 2022 at 09:16 PM

PB

“ Hillis and I were shipmates together in the Navy, and rented a house together in Norfolk, Virginia (pre Nivea). He was a wonderful guy, always upbeat, and a great sense of humor. He was the only guy in our division with a Harley-Davison, and so aquired the nickname "Spike".

Hillis had an interesting taste in music in those days. I remember attending a Night Ranger concert with him, and us also being 5 rows back seeing "Soft White Underbelly" (the touring name for Blue Oyster Cult) at a little club in Norfolk. We were also both into the Talking Heads at the time... he loved the "Stop Making Sense" movie! He also loved some of the girl bands like the Go-Gos, and Pat Benetar.

Being from New Jersey, he taught me to speak "Arkansas" :). Did you know your car has a "bat-tree" that helps it start up?

We were able to visit Hillis and Nivea in Mineral a few times ... always too short.

Hillis will always have a special place in our hearts. Our deepest condolences to you Nivea and the rest of the family.

Peter & Mary Beke - August 21, 2022 at 09:21 PM

SD

Peter and Mary, your comments are precious. He loved his nickname! I love that he taught you some "Arkansas talk." Nivea, the rest of the family, and I cherish these personal parts of his life that you have shared. From his sister Sara

Sara Dickey - August 25, 2022 at 09:19 PM

MN

“ Hillis to most of his friends , but always “Sonny “ to his family .
Sonny was one of a kind . His humor and laughter were infectious.
He was the big cousin that we younger ones couldn't wait to show
up at our family gatherings . He'd chase us around , swing us, and
take us for rides in whatever cool car he'd happen to have at the
time . He loved his family and always made time for us. As we
became adults , he'd still take the time to call on birthdays and
never forget a Holiday. He will be missed, but held close in our
hearts and memories. Love ... your baby cuz.... Marsha Until we
meet again ❤️

Marsha Norman - August 18, 2022 at 07:27 PM

SD

This is so precious, Marsha. Love you. Sara

Sara Dickey - August 25, 2022 at 09:20 PM

JW

“ 3 files added to the album 2005



Jim Wilder - August 18, 2022 at 10:36 AM

SD

Thanks for sharing these pics, Jim. Sara

Sara Dickey - August 25, 2022 at 09:21 PM

HW

“ I know Hillis for twenty years, from work, and continued friendship. He is the best person I ever met, and interfaced with. He had some funny stories from his Navy days, that I still think about. The story of new recruits told to get a bucket of steam, or the Navy ritual for when someone crosses the equator for the first time. Hillis and I tested many components at the North Anna Power Station during outages, and sometimes "On-line." Hillis sent me a picture that clearly showed his versatility at the plant. He was up maybe 20 feet in the air testing power line cables in freezing conditions. Yes, he volunteered. After we both retired, we remained friends. Hillis and Nivea, to Pat and I, are the perfect couple. They care so much for each other. Hillis is a very special person who will be greatly missed. -But his spirit will live on. Harry Wachter

Harry Wachter - August 17, 2022 at 12:11 PM

SD

Thank you for your special comments, Harry. He treasured his friends and I know y'all shared some good times. He was the best natured person I've ever known, just like our dad. His sister Sara

Sara Dickey - August 25, 2022 at 09:25 PM

JB

“ 2 files added to the album 2005



Joe Bowers - August 16, 2022 at 08:59 PM

SD

Thank you for sharing these pictures, Joe. His sister Sara

Sara Dickey - August 25, 2022 at 09:26 PM

IF

“ *Iraida & Fonso purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Hillis Arthur Pratt, Jr..*



Iraida & Fonso - August 16, 2022 at 06:50 PM

SM

“ *Hillis was much more than a coworker to his friends and family that worked with him through the years. He will be missed by all that knew him. -Steve M.*

Steven Mitchell - August 16, 2022 at 12:06 PM

BS

I could only wish that anyone would remember me as fondly as I remember Hillis.

-Bill Shumate

Bill Shumate - August 16, 2022 at 12:15 PM

DB

I have always had the highest respect for Hillis.

I don't know anyone who disliked him.

He was off the scale smart and a genuinely good person. Trustworthy and helpful.

The world is definitely a better place because he was here.

He was an excellent example for all of us. I would like to be more like he was.

Daniel Brown - August 17, 2022 at 06:55 AM

JW

Having worked about 3' from Hillis for the last 13+ years I have so many good memories of our time together. He was more than a co-worker he was a great friend.

I remember his generosity regarding people he knew, he would always bring an "outage" cake to share with co-workers taking the time on his single day off to "work hard all day over the Cosco stove". Both Hillis and Nivea would bring meals and help neighbors in need and were always thinking of ways to help others (and then doing it).

He was very social to all the people around him and would take time & interest in their lives both at work & home. Everyone liked Hillis and none spoke ill of him.

Nivea was the love of his life and he always spoke lovingly about her both in and out of her presence.

He was quick to share and was forever taking people on boat rides or out to dinner. I'll always remember Hillis and the tremendous impression he made on my life.

Jim Wilder - August 18, 2022 at 10:38 AM

SD

Jim, I so agree with all of your special words. He was so kind hearted and loved sharing things that would make people happy. And he was genuinely interested in people's lives and generous to a fault. I never heard of anyone who didn't like him. Yes, Nivea was definitely the love of his life. I appreciate knowing that he was a dear friend to you and made such an impression. I don't think he had any idea how important he was to so many friends and family members. His sister Sara

Sara Dickey - August 25, 2022 at 09:53 PM