



Shelden Allen DeTrafford

April 8, 1947 - January 31, 2024

Shelden Allen DeTrafford, 76, passed away peacefully in his sleep at home in Walker, La. on January 31, 2024. He was a 1965 graduate of Baton Rouge High School where he played football, basketball and ran track. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps during his senior year. After graduation went to Parris Island and served honorably through 1967. A Master Merchant Mariner (USCG) he worked on the Mississippi River for over 50 years. He was a Captain for Midland, Ingram & Florida Marine Transporters for whom he later instructed simulator training at Delgado College's Maritime, Fire & Industrial Training facility in New Orleans, La.

He is survived by his wife Paula Banks DeTrafford, daughter Rebecca Joy Ramsey, granddaughter Sophia Joy Andres & The Goodest Boy Buster DeTrafford. Many loving in-laws; Winnie Banks, Tina Banks Henson, Amy Ganucheau & Bridget of Mandeville, LA. Tere Banks, Elizabeth Schrienk & family, Katherine Shipley & family of Columbus, OH. George, Pam & Melissa Banks of Montesano, WA. Sisters; Cindy Misterr of New Orleans & Dara Blackburn of Baton Rouge, LA.

Preceded in death by his parents Vivian M. Shelden DeTrafford & Allen Joseph DeTrafford and sister Sharon Avant all of Baton Rouge.

Service information is still being developed by the family and will be posted as

soon as it becomes available. Please check back.
Your friends at Brandon G. Thompson

Tribute Wall

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“Your true pilot cares nothing about anything on earth but the river, and his pride in his occupation surpasses the pride of kings . . . by the Shadow of Death, but he's a lightning pilot!”

— Mark Twain - “Life On The Mississippi” - Ch. 7

I am honored & humbled to have had Sheldon in my life as a friend, mentor & the Godfather of my youngest - nothing but wide bridges & good water from here on, good Cap'n - not least by me, you are sorely missed. To Paula, Becca & Sophie - all love, prayers & blessings.

— Mel Fallen

Melvin Fallen - April 30, 2024 at 08:22 PM