



Sam May

March 12, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Sam May, 83, on March 12, 20/25.

He was an entrepreneur from the very beginning- he started a paper route when he was 11, along with hustling pig-cutting boards to neighbors and bowling pin lamps. This planted the seed for his entrepreneurial spirit. At the ripe old age of 16, he started his own business, Sam's Stamps & Coins, in the back of his father's grocery store, Leo's Grocery, and went on to help start the Red Rose Coin Club. The service then called his name, and he entered the Army in 1958. He often joked that his recruiter lied, and he didn't get the deployment he was promised Germany, but he was happy to be stationed in Seattle as part of Missile Master, an assignment he greatly enjoyed. He held close many fond memories of this time and those he shared those times with. He then worked as an expediter for Boeing, before returning home to Lancaster to be closer to his family. Upon returning to Lancaster, he enlisted in the Navy Reserves. He went on to work for Hubley, Schick, and Grinnell, and a stint as a real estate agent, before he delved into being his own boss and started Kraft & Kollectors, which morphed over the years into Sam's Man Cave. Over the years the business developed as his passion for collecting changed, from stamps, coins, whiskey decanters, beer cans, beer steins to beer signs. He often joked he sold what he did not have room to keep for himself. His business was one of the greatest joys of his life, he loved his daily

interactions with collectors who traveled from near and far. He never met a stranger and had the ability to talk to anyone, anywhere, sometimes to his daughter's horror.

He was preceded in death by his father, Leo May, mother, Mary May, and infant sister, Lorraine.

Surviving are his daughters, Shellee and Samantha. He is also survived by his brother, Ronald (Anne) May, Lancaster, PA, and sister, Freida (Wayne) Groff, Lancaster, PA; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; four nephews and six nieces. Also, a pack of grand fur babies that he would roll his eyes about how spoiled they were and then spoil them himself.

He was a man of character who will be deeply missed by his family. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Lancaster Meals on Wheels.

Tribute Wall

MT

“ So sorry to hear of Sam's passing, may he rest in peace.

Matt Thompson

Matt Thompson - March 24, 2025 at 10:27 AM

BG

“ My dear Sammie & family. Holding you all close in prayer for a great loss to your family. Sam was a great man and friend to me. Driving him to Katie's Kitchen for breakfast to join other friends (Strasburg gang) was so much fun! We'd laugh about so many things. Then sat in his driveway and talk for an hour and a half or more. When my Jeffrey was still with us Sam would join us one day a week for breakfast at Alice's. Plus all the years we all ate at Smoketown diner until it closed. He'd tease my Jeffrey about how easy he had it in the Air Force. We all had a great time. Lots of wonderful memories to see us through. Hugs to you all...

Becky Glick - March 20, 2025 at 06:12 PM

PP

“ Samantha & Family. Our sincere condolences to you for the passing of your Dad. We first met you and your Dad at your first store on Rt. 30 many years ago. Throughout the many years of stopping by to just chat and always enjoying your Dad joking with me about my being a Marine. Always in fun and I loved the pleasant jokes. He once stopped me at the door and explained " I know Marines get confused.....pull the doordon"t push the door". A great guy and I am saddened that he is gone. However the wonderful memories will never be gone from me. Thanks you Sam.....I always remember your words.....Pull the door....don't push the door.
Rest in peace my friend.....Thank You!
God Bless you Samantha and your family.
Phil & Ann (friends from CT and currently in Ephrata)

Philip Perri - March 20, 2025 at 04:00 PM

LM

“ First met Sam at Bridgeport Family Restaurant where we shared breakfast time for alot of years. Enjoyed getting to know about his life and family. Sam was always upbeat so gave me a great start of my day. He has been missed but not forgotten since he was unable to attend. Sorry Sammie for you and other family members loss.

Loretta Mickey

Loretta Mickey - March 20, 2025 at 11:19 AM

JD

“ Sammie, I am saddened by your loss. I always enjoyed stopping by Sam's two stores on Rte. 30 and talking with him and you, browsing through his collectibles and later Man Cave items, then purchasing over half of the items I have in my basement. The Sprenger ink blotter hanging right off my kitchen in the main hallway has developed a new presence. I will think of him often. He was very good man and collector and it was certainly a pleasure knowing him! God bless, Jeff Duke

Jeff Duke - March 20, 2025 at 01:53 AM

CF

“ Beautifully written obituary. Such an interesting life he led. Always enjoyed stopping in to see my good friend Sammie and being entertained by her Dad. He always had a smile for us and we shared stories of being "city kids" You took good care of him, Sammie and he loved you very much.

Cheryl Flury - March 19, 2025 at 06:35 PM

FS

“ To Freida and family. I am so sorry for your loss. I remember your family from Leo's Grocery. One day I walked into Sam's Man Cave, and I told him who I was. He called you because it was your birthday. We had a really nice conversation. Sam was a very special person, as was your whole family.

Fran Lombardo Spangler - March 19, 2025 at 05:29 PM

NS

“ I am Buck's sister, Nancy. My deepest sympathies to your family. Right now, I imagine the 2 of them, somewhere, trading lies and discussing Beer signs. 💔

Nancy Sarley - March 19, 2025 at 03:51 PM

KA

“ Sam, or as we called him, Big G was a kind and funny man. A great grandfather and a straight to the point man. We would enjoy going over to his shop and seeing all the things he collected over the years and he was more than happy to tell you all about them. He always wanted to make sure that those he loved had what they needed even if what they needed were a few words of encouragement, he was always there just to talk or hang out. He was truly loved and will be missed.



Katelyn - March 19, 2025 at 08:14 AM