



Elmer Alvin Snell

APR 29, 1932 - APR 23, 2009



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Elmer Alvin Snell passed away on Thursday, April 23, 2009.

Beloved husband of Margie Rogillio Snell. Father of Christian, Andrew, Darian and Francine Snell and the late Jesse Allen Snell. Step-father of Liz Rogillio, Russ Adams and Stacy Berry Wolfarth. Grandfather of Peter Bowser, Jr. and Alexander Wolfarth. Son of the late Arnold and Eleanor Kershaw Snell. Brother of Joan Snell Scott, Evelyn Snell Sherwood and the late Janet Snell Nielson and Norma Snell Noll. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

He was a disabled veteran of the Navy serving in the Korean Conflict. He had many good friends including Michael Corey, Virginia Tate and Wayne Snell. He was a dedicated foster parent, a volunteer Santa and a volunteer for the pediatric AIDS Program.

Age 76 years. A native of Boston, MA and a resident of Franklinton, LA for the past 18 years.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the memorial service at Hillcrest Baptist Church, 2201 E. Washington St. (Hwy. 10), Franklinton, LA on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 2:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, the family would prefer donations in his name to his children. E.J. Fielding Funeral Home Inc., 2260 W. 21st. Ave., Covington, LA 70433 entrusted with the arrangements.



Tribute Wall

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Russ Adams posted:

It's now about 10 years after Elmer's passing, so I doubt anyone will read this. However, I wasn't aware that this page existed until this moment. Prior to tonight, I was only aware of the newspaper obituary. Speaking only for myself, Elmer was a very good step-father to have grown up with. We were never particularly close on an emotional level, but we got along very well on an intellectual level. We've had many lively debates on a plethora of topics. He had a unique take on the world around him and while I often disagreed with him, I found his opinions to be thought-provoking and interesting. Elmer and I had many adventures together. Most were exceedingly boring, but I never failed to learn something new on each one. Elmer taught me a lot of things, from history to algebra to education to finding the value in everything, and everyone, both young and old. Elmer was into "rusty gold" long before the American Pickers popularized the phrase, and when I worked for him as his assistant and loader at auctions, flea-markets, yard sales, estate sales, etc., all over America, and when I worked as a runner in his auction gallery, I always worked extra hard for him and he always recognized that and paid me well, both in money and in knowledge. One memory that I cherish of Elmer is a weekend trip that he and I took to a town in Maine that was well north of Bangor and very nearly to the Canadian border. We ate like kings and enjoyed a day in the stands at the stock-car races, and then we started looking for deals. Eventually, we found a place that was selling antique wooden sleighs (like the kind horses would draw in the snow). Thanks to the large wooden and iron rack on Elmer's old red Ford pickup and a small used trailer (which we also purchased on that trip), we managed to load 22 of those sleighs, tie them down and get them home to his auction hall in Cedarville! Also, it was Elmer and one of his friends who took me deep sea fishing the one and only time I've ever been. It was a lousy trip, in lousy weather. I was the only one on the boat who caught a fish. It was a 5-6 pound blue fish. I was only 11 or 12 years old, and that fish put up the biggest fight I could have ever imagined. It seemed to take me hours to feel it in. But Elmer let me fight the battle myself. I grew up a little bit that day. Not only did Elmer let me keep the fish, but he let me keep it in the freezer at his auction hall for 2-3 years! Like anyone else, Elmer had his faults, his flaws, his mistakes, his boneheaded moments, etc. But he was a good man, a good teacher, a great auctioneer, a good step-father and an amazing father to many children that he fostered and adopted! Elmer, wherever you are and whatever you're doing, I hope you know that you are sorely missed. Russ Adams

March 27 at 9:25 PM



Russ Adams August 17 at 7:22 PM

Hi Bob - He never mentioned teaching in Westwood to me, but I wouldn't doubt it. It's not exactly a common name. After he came back from the Navy, Elmer drove a school bus and made glass to put himself through school (along with the G.I. Bill). After that he did teach math and science, pretty much exclusively. I know that he was first Assistant Principal and then Principal at Hull High School on the south shore, which is when he and his first wife, Doris (ugh), moved to Plymouth. Interestingly enough, he and his first wife also took in foster children. Not the medically fragile kind that my mother and he took in, but more the "at risk" kind. I would love to hear about how he inspired you! So sorry it took me 8 months to reply to you. This site didn't send me a notification or anything. I only saw your comment because I



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Googled Elmer's name to show someone a photo of why his developmentally disabled adopted son is obsessed with Christmas and especially Santa. It's because his dad WAS Santa!! Lol. Take care! Russ Adams. (I'm going to copy this to your email)

BO

Bob December 4 at 3:23 PM

Hey Russ, It was nice to read about your stepfather. If this is the same Elmer A. Snell who taught science at Westwood High School in Massachusetts in the 1970's, well, he was a wonderful man and an inspiration to me in ways I cannot begin to describe here. Among my fond memories of Mr. Snell is the way he took a personal interest in his students and encouraged them to follow their passions. He certainly did that for me! I hope your fond memories of him bring you smiles and comfort through the years. Feel free to reach out and I would be happy to share a story of how your stepfather fostered the imagination and drive of an otherwise shy and introverted 15-year-old. Kindest regards, -Bob (bobbywyllie@gmail.com)



Russ Adams March 27 at 9:29 PM

And, for the record, Elmer also had/has a step-grand-daughter that didn't make the list somehow. Her name is Alexandra, she's my daughter, and she's graduating with honors from Louisiana State University this year.

JM

Joan Mullin posted:

So sorry for your loss Margie and kids. Elmer was so nice and I remember our meeting at Cracker barrel years ago for lunch on your trip through TN. My love is with all of you and I will keep Elmer in my prayers.

May 22 at 7:00 PM

RF

Rita & Dick Farmer posted:

Alvin's sister Norma was married to my brother Lloyd (both whom are deceased) but I just wanted to convey my condolences to all the family. It is never easy to have a loved one taken from us. Rita/Dick Farmer

April 30 at 7:00 PM



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SD

Steve Darwin posted:

I'm sitting at a desk that I bought at one of Elmer's auctions ("This is genuine, solid mahogany, folks."). Those were fun events and my friends and I enjoyed them very much. Elmer was a nice guy, and since I'm also from Mass., it was great to hear a Boston accent again. Condolences to all of Elmer Snell's family. We will miss him.

April 29 at 7:00 PM

AL

Arthea Larson posted:

I was so sorry to hear of Elmer's passing. I think of this wonderful picture I have of the two of you at the zoo walking with Jesse between you, the comparison between adults and miniscule child quite touching. Please accept my condolences.

April 27 at 7:00 PM

EH

Eleanor Noll Hensley posted:

Uncle Alvin was a special kind of guy. He loved a good discussion, a good laugh and a good meal. My sympathy to you, Margi, and all of your children Eleanor

April 27 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Elmer by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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