



Sheldon C. Royal

August 10, 1945 - August 27, 2021

PEPPERELL: Sheldon C. Royal, 76, a longtime Pepperell resident passed away peacefully on Friday, August 27, 2021 at Fitchburg Healthcare, Fitchburg.

Sheldon was born in Dover Foxcroft, Maine, August 10, 1945, a son of Clive and Beulah M. (Stitham) Royal. He leaves his wife, Natasha (Koryak) Carter; his stepson, Misha Koryak of Stoneham; a brother, Seward Schinck of Newport, NH; his sister, Lorraine Schinck of Brewer, ME; and two grandchildren.

After graduating from high school, Sheldon entered military service where he served his country for 10 Years, including from 1966-1969 during the Vietnam War. Sheldon served as a Captain in the U.S. Army Special Forces stationed throughout Vietnam and Thailand. He personally trained and fought alongside Soldiers of the United States, The Republic of Vietnam, The Kingdom of Thailand, and the indigenous Vietnamese Montagnards. During the course of his 30 months in Vietnam, he sustained wounds in combat on no less than three occasions; he distinguished himself among his peers and was twice awarded the Bronze Star Medal, twice awarded the Army Commendation Medal and the Air Medal.

Sheldon Royal's military decorations include:

Bronze Star Medal (1OLC)
Purple Heart (2OLC)
National Defense Service Medal
Army Commendation (1OLC)
Air Medal
Parachutist Badge
Combat Infantry Badge
Vietnam Service Medal
Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal
Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm
Thailand Parachutist Badge
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Thailand)

In 1973, Sheldon opened Hunter's Rendezvous in Pepperell, a sporting goods store specializing in hunting and fishing, which he continued to operate until his death. This store was his life's work which he pursued with passion and devotion without days off or vacations. Over the years Sheldon gathered a unique collection of high-quality firearms, archery, and fishing equipment that transformed his store into a veritable museum.

True to its name, Hunter's Rendezvous became a well-known gathering place for local veterans, hunters, and fishermen. The picturesque log cabin on Rt.119 became a distinctive landmark in Pepperell untouched by time for almost 50 years.

Sheldon was a member of the Townsend Rod & Gun Club and the Purple Heart Recipients Association. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and preferred a life lived under the direct laws of nature to one lived under the complex codes of men.

Funeral services will be held privately.

The Anderson Funeral Home, 250 Main Street, Townsend Center is assisting the family with arrangements.

Tribute Wall

LE

“ To the family of Sheldon,

Sheldon's service to our country is extraordinary. His bravery is remarkable.

My deepest sympathy

Sincerely,

Pepperell resident

Linda Evans - October 21, 2023 at 04:00 PM

DK

“ *I got to know Sheldon through my cousin, Vern. Whenever I visited Vern to go pheasant hunting, I always ended up spending time at Hunters Rendezvous visiting "the gang". I cherish the quiet moments we spent on the front porch together, one time in particular, when just he and I were together. Sheldon was a quiet, thoughtful, loving man, to say the least. I feel that I'm a better person for having known him.*

DeRoss Kellogg

DeRoss Kellogg - September 08, 2021 at 06:19 AM



“ I arrived in Townsend as a nimrod from the South Shore and deer season arrived that first winter in the big woods. While it seems my hunting partner for the next twenty years also used a black powder gun that I was clueless about it's operation so off to meet Sheldon we went for the first time.

Sheldon was a wealth of information of all things about these smoke poles, from history, manufacturing, design, and use. He told me once that Paper Wasp Nest were used in Colonial Days for wads. While, sure enough, they work well on Partridge with the double-barrel Smoke Pole Shotgun.

May your Powder remain dry my friend as you travel to the next existence. ~ Bob Clark

Bob Clark - August 31, 2021 at 08:37 AM

MM

“ Memories of Sheldon go back to the days of the Vietnam War and Ft. Devens. He was truly a great friend.

Mac McKusick - August 29, 2021 at 07:43 PM

MS

“ I am heartbroken. To all of Sheldon's family I am so saddened to hear of your loss. I first met Sheldon as a young boy when my father brought me to his cabin. I am now in my late 50's. He has inspired so many of us to reflect in yesteryear, love our country, the great outdoors, and one another. May you all find comfort celebrating his life, you've done so much for so many of us Sheldon, may you Rest In Peace my old friend. I will miss you. After all these years I am so thankful for all you have done for my dad and I and so many more. May god bless you.

Mark Schofield

Mark Schofield - August 29, 2021 at 03:38 PM

LF

“ I always loved Sheldon. He was a unique person with such a huge heart. I was fortunate enough to marry he and his bride. He called me when he got cold feet but we figured it all out. He was a great person and friend. He will be sorely missed

lisa ferolito - August 27, 2021 at 09:11 PM

DD

Sheldon and I both Served with the 5th Special Forces in Vietnam.
Always enjoyed visiting with him at meetings and visiting Hunters Rendezvous.
Airborne "All the Way"
Major Denzil Drewry Live in Westboro MA
If I can help, let me know

Denzil Drewry - September 07, 2021 at 07:53 PM

JD

I first met Sheldon back in 1998. I loved the guy the minute I met him. I was introduced to him by a common friend John Farnsworth who served with Sheldon in Vietnam. They were both highly decorated ex-Green Berets. Talk about a small world, they both knew my step brother(same father) who was killed over there like thousands of others. He was also a Green Beret! Going over there and sitting on the porch and listening to some of the stories was absolutely wonderful. Vern, I am sorry you lost your best friend. To Sheldon's family my wife and I send our deepest sympathy. He was a great man. Jeff Dusti - Shirley, Ma.

Jeff Dusti - September 09, 2021 at 03:14 PM

MC

To Sheldon's family....My deepest condolences.. He was a unique individual and always a pleasure to speak with, and learn from. My brother had a mutual interest with Sheldon in blackpowder, antiques etc. They also shared a special bond due to their service in Viet Nam. Thank you for your service Sheldon, may you rest in peace~

Marian C

Marian C - September 16, 2021 at 09:59 PM

JO

My brother and myself referred to Sheldon as the man who lived in the 18th Century. Sheldon was a unique individual. I bought a lot of traditional archery equipment and quite a few black powder flintlock weapons from the fellow. I was saddened and suprised by his untimely passing.

John - April 04, 2024 at 10:06 PM