

OBITUARY

Terry Balkwill

Former Leamington Flyers defenceman Terry Balkwill passed away suddenly in Florida on January 1, 2016. He was 70.

Born in Leamington, Terry grew up in and around Point Pelee and loved the outdoors and playing hockey. He patrolled the blueline for the Flyers from 1962-64, until an injury midway through the '63-'64 season cut his career short. Known by his teammates as "Boomer", he wore number 5 for the Flyers, who played in the Border Cities Jr. B League.



He joined the U.S. Marine Corp in late 1964, serving two tours over a 6-year period in Vietnam until a serious injury earned him an honourable discharge. He received a number of badges and medals for his service and was recognized for saving the life of a 10-year-old girl.

Upon his discharge, he moved to Florida in 1970 and married his wife Elaine there in 1974.

In 1975, Terry, Elaine and their young daughter, Heather, moved back to Leamington, where they lived for 17 years. Their son, Jason, was born during this time.

They moved back to Florida in 1992, where Terry eventually formed Terry Balkwill Painting until his retirement in 2010.

Terry was always known as the life of the party, spreading his humour, compassion and caring ways with those who knew him. He was a true family man. He called his mother in Leamington every Sunday.

He is survived by wife Elaine, daughter Heather and son-in-law Cary Berg, son Jason and three grandchildren, Haley, Hannah and Harmony Berg.

He is also survived by his mother, Joy Balkwill of Leamington, two brothers, Larry, of Allentown, Pennsylvania, and Danny of Leamington. He was predeceased by his father, Cecil Balkwill.

A memorial visitation was held at Terry's home in Vero Beach, with another memorial to be held this spring in Leamington.

Donations and condolences can be made through Seawinds Funeral Home at

www.seawindsfh.com