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Dwight Laniel Gross

July 22, 1943 - July 26, 2025

Dwight Laniel Gross, 82, of Rosemary Beach, Florida, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 26, 2025. He was born on July 22, 1943, in Jamestown, Ohio, to the late Andrew Gross and Phyllis Jacks Gross.

Dwight was a brilliant and fiercely independent man with an insatiable curiosity for the world around him. He proudly served in the United States Navy as a Vietnam veteran, an experience that deepened his appreciation for life and the world he would go on to explore.

A lifelong adventurer and world traveler, Dwight had a deep love for nature and could identify nearly every plant species. He once dreamed of being a park ranger and felt most at home in the wild outdoors, often saying he felt “like an eagle with clipped wings in the city.” He also found great joy in cycling, relishing the freedom and quiet reflection of long rides surrounded by open air and scenery.

A graduate of Colorado State University, Dwight had a passion for learning across countless subjects—writing code for the Columbia space shuttle, studying the stars and constellations, and immersing himself in birdwatching. He was known for his sharp wit, unique sense of humor, and self-proclaimed recluse spirit, yet those who knew him were always inspired by his stories and knowledge.

In addition to his parents, Dwight was preceded in death by his brother, Andy Gross, and brother-in-law, Terry Brock. He is survived by his son, Tory Gross (Kristen); daughters, Trish Davis and Cherie Hendry; brother, Paul Gross (Lori); sisters, Jessica Maze (Bruce) and Bridget Brock; and many extended family members who will forever cherish his memory.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

Every ocean, river, mountain and trail I see I think of you dad. I miss you so very much, and I’m just so grateful for the time and travels we shared. Love you Dad - Cherie

—Cherie