



Dale "Sonny" Early

March 10, 1939 - March 9, 2026

Dale "Sonny" Early passed away at his residence one day shy of his 87th birthday, on March 9, 2026. Born in Hilliards, Pa, on March 10, 1939, he was the son of the late Arthur and Maime Young Early and was the last surviving of their eight children. Sonny retired after 25 years of service with Penn Dot. He previously worked for the Mashuda Corp and Grove Construction. He was a well-known area icon and will be missed by so many, including his beloved cat Bo-Bo. He loved riding his Harley and rode with "Lords of the Road" for a few years. He was an avid gun collector and enjoyed buying and selling antiques, as well as woodworking projects. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

Sonny is survived by his wife of 25 years, Donna Kay King, whom he married on May 19, 2000. His Son and daughter-in-law, Gary (Roxanne) Ward. Sister and brother-in-law, Kathy (Bob) Thompson. Brother and sister-in-law, Ed (Karen) King. Stepson, Craig (Jamie) Summerville. Stepdaughter, Jill (Trevor) Forshey. Step granddaughter, Bailey Summerville. Step grandsons, Liam, Nate, and Sam Heaton. Numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters: Ruby Zinzer, Bernice McTaggart, Helen, and Dorothy Sullivan. Brothers: Arthur, Kenny, and Walter Early. First wife, Jean Early.

Friends will be received on Friday (3/13/2026) at Buzard Funeral Home in Parker (201 S. Wayne St.) from 3-7pm. On Saturday (3/14/26) from 10am-11am. The funeral will follow at the Funeral Home at 11am. Private interment

will be at Foxburg Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Foxburg Cemetery

Foxburg, PA 16036

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 13. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

H. Jack Buzard Funeral Homes, Inc. Parker
201 S. Wayne Street
PO Box 21
Parker, PA 16049
(724) 791-2484

Visitation

MAR 14. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

H. Jack Buzard Funeral Homes, Inc. Parker
201 S. Wayne Street
PO Box 21
Parker, PA 16049
(724) 791-2484

Funeral Service

MAR **14**. 11:00 AM (ET)

H. Jack Buzard Funeral Homes, Inc. Parker
201 S. Wayne Street
PO Box 21
Parker, PA 16049
(724) 791-2484

Tribute Wall

AS

“ *Sonny was always such a super nice guy! Sending my deepest condolences. Big hugs to you Donna.* ”

Amy Seybert - March 21 at 09:19 AM

NK

“ *Donna Kay and family,
I am so sorry for your loss. You two made such a great couple.
Sonny was always so friendly. This is a hard journey you are going
through. I pray for your peace.* ”

Norma Kooman

Norma Kooman - March 14 at 03:36 PM

TW

“ *Rest in peace my friend* ”

Terry Warner - March 13 at 01:09 PM



“ *John Barty lit a candle in memory of Dale
"Sonny" Early* ”



John Barty - March 13 at 12:32 PM

BB

“ We are very sorry to hear of Dale’s passing . Even though I haven’t seen him for a long time I always liked Dale so much and was always grateful for how much he cared for my Aunt Marg. He was always so kind, loving ,sweet , to everyone . Our deepest sympathy to you Donna and your family, he will be truly missed. Sending you our prayers .

Bernie and Debby Berteotti - March 13 at 12:53 AM

BG

“ Brock Greenawalt purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dale "Sonny" Early.



Brock Greenawalt - March 12 at 10:53 PM

BG

“ Sonny and my Dad Clyde worked together at PennDot for many years, in fact, they rode to work together most every day that I can recall from my childhood. It seems I’ve known him my entire life. He was a warm and friendly soul who I’ll always remember fondly. Wishing you all peace and my deepest condolences in this challenging time.



*Sincerely,
Brock Greenawalt*

Brock Greenawalt - March 12 at 10:48 PM

DW

“ When I was in High School (many years ago) I remember Sonny coming to our house. I went to the door and saw this rough looking character all dressed in leather. He asked to see my parents and we invited him in. He spent a few minutes with Mom and Dad and away he went. At that time Sonny belonged to a motorcycle club and that club held a benefit to help my little brother who was battling cancer at the time. Sonny handed an envelope with money to my Dad to help with the expenses of traveling back and forth to Pittsburgh. Very few (if any) of the club members, including Sonny, knew our family personally. They just saw a need and acted on that need. My parents couldn't believe people they didn't even know would help in such a way. They never forgot that day and I haven't either. The last few years I was fortunate to get to know Sonny and Donna a little better. While driving by their house on the way from my property, I would stop and visit them. They always made me feel welcome and thanked me for stopping in. I'm really gonna miss the old boy sitting on his porch, waiting for someone to stop and chat! RIP my friend.

Dan Wetzel

Dan Wetzel - March 12 at 09:56 PM

PM

“ Donna: So sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

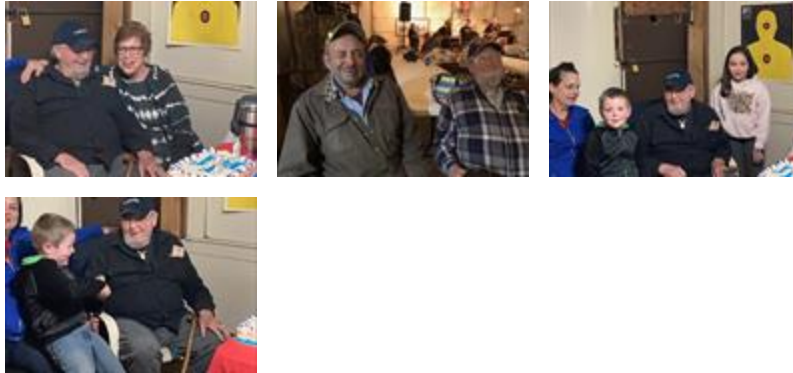
Patty Moore
New Bern NC
Gary's sister-in-law



Patty Moore - March 12 at 09:44 AM

JA

“ 4 files added to the album Photos



Jacque - March 11 at 02:49 PM

DS

“ So sorry for your loss 🙏



Darla Saye - March 11 at 01:21 PM

FP

“ Our Sincere Condolences to Donna & the Family. Sonny will be missed by all that knew him. Prayers sent...

frank palmer - March 11 at 12:25 PM

RC

“ Rick, Lynne, Kelly and Christopher planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dale "Sonny" Early.

Rick, Lynne, Kelly and Christopher - March 11 at 12:24 PM

NM

“ Lots of good times with Tom, Tony and Pizza in Foxburg. Have fun up there guys!!

Nancy Myers - March 11 at 11:08 AM

BP

So many memories shared with Sonny and Donna. All the side x side rides, pontoon rides and just hanging out with Pizza, Tony, Tom and Nancy. You will be missed Sonny. Party hard with the guys when you see them!
Prayers for Donna and family 🙏🙏

Bonnie Parenti - March 11 at 01:14 PM

SA

My deepest sympathy from an old friend, I knew him when I visited my grandma, Ellen Lewis.

Sanndra - March 11 at 01:37 PM

CE

So sorry for your loss Donna. Will sure miss chatting & catching up with both of you at the Early reunions.
Prayers for you Donna & the family.
Carol Early

Carol Early - March 11 at 03:37 PM

TK

Loss of a LEGEND, 💙

Taryn Kriebel - March 12 at 06:15 AM

KS

Our deepest sympathy to Donna and family. He will be missed by all who knew him..Condolences from your extented family in NY..Jim and Kathy Snyder

Kathleen Snyder - March 12 at 06:15 AM