



Edward Griffin, S.D.S.

Date of Birth ***May 17, 1930***
Date of Commitment ***December 17, 1972***
Date of Death ***May 19, 2015***

Edward Joseph Griffin was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado on May 17, 1930, to Edward Joseph Griffin, Sr. and Mable Chew. He was the oldest of seven siblings, two of them girls. All are living except one. Ed's mother was a school teacher in his early years but later was a stay-at-home mother. Ed's father was a mechanic by trade and died when Ed was only four and a half due to blood poisoning from a cut finger he got when changing a tire. Soon after he died, Ed's mother took Ed and his brother, Jim, back to Leon, Iowa where she was from. When Ed was around eight years old they moved to Washington D.C. where she found clerical work in the Civil Service. They eventually made their home in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Ed's mother remarried, when Ed was about eleven, to Vincent Roche. The two of them had five more children and his mother was then a stay-at-home mom. Ed went to Catholic Schools up until 8th grade and then went to public schools, graduating from Montgomery Blair High School, in Silver Spring, MD, in 1948.

As a child Ed was very outgoing, and was a tease, especially with a playmate named Ann Musselwhite who lived in the same neighborhood. Later, she became his wife! He had an intense interest in and love for the Sea Scouts which, in later years, was reflected in his enlisting in the Navy.

Ed and Ann married in 1954, when Ed was on shore duty in the Navy. They married at St. Michael's Church in Silver Spring, Maryland. They had a son, Joe, in 1955, followed by a daughter who died at two months of heart cancer. After her death they had another baby, a boy, who died at birth. Ed and his wife then adopted two more children, the adoptions being five years apart, both babies three months old at the time of adoption: Eric Jerome (Jerry) and Elizabeth Jean (Jeanie).

Ed's 26 year Navy career, which began after high school, included many assignments and locations: He served on the USS Wright, an early aircraft carrier for about two years and was then assigned to Patuxent River Naval Station in Leonardtown, MD. After he was married, he was reassigned to Norfolk, VA where he served on a destroyer. During this time his son, Joe, was born. He was next sent to Providence, Rhode Island, and was assigned to go to the Antarctic on the USS Wyandott on Expedition Deepfreeze. After returning stateside he attended Officers' Candidate School in Newport Rhode Island, then a six month's stint in Supply Corps School in Athens, GA. From there he was assigned to Norfolk, VA a second time where he served on another destroyer for two years. When it was time for shore duty, he was sent to Green Cove Springs, Florida where he was the dispersing officer; Then to Thailand where he was the Transportation Officer for two and one half years. On this assignment his family also was with him. Coming back to the States, he was assigned to the Naval Air Station in Key West, Florida; soon, he was selected to attend Transportation School in San Francisco, CA. While still in San Francisco he was assigned to a Refrigerated Ship and supplied fresh food to the US Naval ships in the Pacific. His last duty station was in Suitland, Maryland, as Supply Officer in the Oceanographic Office. He retired in 1973 as a Lt. Commander, quite an accomplishment for a young sailor right out of high school, twenty six years earlier.

Ed was most proud of being on the final expedition which Admiral Byrd commanded, Operation Deep Freeze I (1955-1956) which established permanent Antarctic bases at [McMurdo Sound](#), the [Bay of Whales](#), and

the South Pole. This was Byrd's last trip to Antarctica and would mark the beginning of a permanent U.S. military presence in Antarctica.

After retirement Ed owned a Generator and Lawn Mower business in Rockville, MD., doing both sales and repair, until 1994 when he retired the second time and moved to Bradenton, Florida. In retirement, he soon became active in Habitat for Humanity and founded, with his wife, Project Light, a Literacy Center that teaches English to migrants. Sadly, beginning in September 2013, Ed lived in an Alzheimer's facility where Ann continued to care for him as much as possible by visiting almost every day.

Ed became a Lay Salvatorian in 1972. Fr. Glen Willis was his sponsor. His journey began when he and Ann lived in Maryland and were going to St. Mary's Church where Glen Willis was a DRE. They volunteered to teach high school and eventually became part of the then-called Associate Program in 1971 and 1972. He and Ann both made their commitment in December of 1972. Ed served in many ways when he was an active lay SDS: He served on the National Board several times, and attended numerous convocations, both as a representative and observer.

On May 19, 2015 Ed went to heaven. He is survived by his wife Ann, his 3 children, and his 3 grandsons, Andrew Griffin, Christopher Henderson and Zackary Henderson, and 1 granddaughter, Julie Griffin.

He will be missed by all who knew him. He was very steady in temperament; seldom angry; and, if he did get angry, quickly got over it. He was especially a loving husband and father.

A Memorial Mass will be held on May 30 at St. Bernard's Church in Bradenton, Florida and another Memorial Mass will be celebrated at St. John the Baptist Church in Maryland prior to his burial in Arlington National Cemetery where his two deceased babies await him.

