

On Jan 4 The FMDAC lost our membership chairman and a past president. Sue Race lost her husband. The hobby lost a "personality" and many of us lost a friend. Mike Race passed away from a heart attack. This was following 3 surgeries in less than a month and one day after the last. Mike and his wife Sue have been involved with the FMDAC since its founding back in 1984.

Mike and Sue have traveled extensively around the USA. They have been traveling to hunts for several decades. Wherever they went they easily made friends with their outgoing personalities and would jump in and lend a hand wherever needed. Mike was known for his tie dyed shirts and fondness for raffles. He won a lot of raffles but he also bought a lot of tickets. He was one of the most generous people I know. Not hesitating to make donations wherever he thought they were needed. Last year at Treasure Week while I was deciding what coins to place in a raffle, he left for a minute. When he returned he handed me a gold coin and said "my donation for the raffle". Then he bought a bunch of tickets on it! I would like to say that that incident sums up Mike but it does not even come close. Those who knew him know what I mean.

I first met Mike and Sue in the mid 80's. My wife hit it off with Sue at a hunt and we were invited to dinner at their campsite that evening. We have been friends since. I learned of Mike's passing during set up day at the American Digger Civil War Show in Charleston. Mike and Sue had been there to help us out the 3 previous years. We were waiting to hear how he had made it through the surgeries. Instead it was a stunned silence among those present.

Mike was a proud military veteran having retired from the Air Force in 1991. Following that he retired from an IT position at a VA hospital. Sue retired at the same time from the same place and they hit the road in an RV. They made a couple trips around the USA seeing the sites, detecting and meeting people. Mike was known to walk around the campgrounds giving Civil War bullets to the kids and explaining their significance.

Treasure Week will just not be the same. It was probably 20 years ago when Mike and Sue started cooking breakfast. I do not recall exactly how it got started. Mike would cook up bacon, sausage and eggs to order. Whether scrambled or an everything omelet it was there for the asking. Sue would man the pancake griddle and warmers. Everyone would chip in some food supplies or cash. They did not limit it to our own hungry hoard, anyone in the campground was welcome. Alas all good things come to an end. Although the breakfast has ended I am willing to bet that there will be many of us meeting up under the "breakfast" pavilion for morning coffee for years to come.

In addition to breakfast Mike had become the Treasure Week photographer and newsletter editor. At the end of each day Mike would put together a sheet filled with photo highlights of the day. Of course it quite often featured a "selfie" of Mike winning raffles!

In the end we are left with a lot of fond memories. Rest in Peace Mike. You will be missed