

From the Wednesday, July 1, 2009 edition of the Kankakee Journal:

Visitation for Eddie E. Curwick, 54, of Reddick, will be from 3 p.m. Thursday until the 7 p.m. funeral service at the Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. Memorials may be made to www.giveforward.org/eddiecurwick. He died Monday (June 29, 2009) in the emergency room at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee. Mr. Curwick owned his own business, Concrete Works by Curwick. He has been in business all his life since he started working for his dad when he was 16. He was born May 2, 1955, in Kankakee, the son of James Sr. and Barbara Wilder Curwick. He was of the Catholic faith. He was a member of the Masons Local 389. He enjoyed hunting, riding motorcycles, building things and fishing, especially with his grandchildren. Surviving are his wife, the former Mary Jo Reynolds, whom he married May 5, 1973, in Kankakee; one son, Charles Curwick and Angie Ponton of Kankakee; two daughters and one son-in-law, Kimberly Curwick of Bradley, Felisha and Jerrimy Robinson of Kankakee; seven grandchildren Alisha Curwick of Morristown, Tenn., Paige McElroy of Bradley, Gizelle Curwick, Gavin Curwick, Conner Robinson, all of Kankakee, Peyton Montgomery and Jaden Montgomery, both of Bradley; his mother, Barbara and Charles Walker of Frostproof, Fla.; two sisters, Debbie Curwick of West Palm Beach, Fla., Mary Walker of Frostproof; and three brothers and one sister-in-law, James Jr. and Sharon Curwick of Plainfield, Bobby Walker of Kankakee and Ricky Walker of Frostproof. Deceased are one daughter, April Curwick; his father; one brother, David Walker; and his paternal grandparents. Please sign his guestbook at clancygernon.com. (Pd.)

From the Tuesday, June 30, 2009 edition of the Kankakee Journal: Eddie E. Curwick, 54, of Reddick, died Monday (June 29, 2009) in the Riverside Medical Center emergency room. Visitation will be from 3 p.m. Thursday at the Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais, until the 7 p.m. funeral service. Memorials may be made to www.giveforward.org/eddiecurwick. Mr. Curwick owned his own business, Concrete Works by Curwick. He was born May 2, 1955, in Kankakee, the son of James Sr. and Barbara Wilder Curwick. He was of the Catholic faith. He was a member of the Masons Local 389. He enjoyed hunting, riding motorcycles, building things and fishing. Surviving are his wife, the former Mary Jo Reynolds, whom he married May 5, 1973, in Kankakee; one son, Charles Curwick and Angie Ponton of Kankakee; two daughters and one son-in-law, Kimberly Curwick of Bradley, Felisha and Jerrimy Robinson of Kankakee; seven grandchildren; his mother, Barbara and Charles Walker of Frost Proof, Fla.; two sisters, Debbie Curwick of West Palm Beach, Fla., Mary Walker of Frost Proof; and three brothers and one sister-in-law, James Jr. and Sharon Curwick of Plainfield, Bobby Walker of Kankakee and Ricky Walker of Frost Proof. Deceased are one daughter, April Curwick; his father; one brother, David Walker; and his paternal grandparents. Please sign his guestbook at clancygernon.com.

From www.giveforward.org/eddiecurwick, downloaded 30 June 2009:

This is our story. On April 16, 2009 our family recieved a call from our mother to get to the hospital. Our dad, Eddie, had been rushed to the hospital from his job site. He had began coughing and vommiting blood. This was only the first of a series of events that would change all of our lives forever. In the ER we were told that a chest x-ray had revealed a large mass in his right lung and they believed that it was the source of the bleeding. More tests would have to wait until he was stablized. The Doctors had to intubate him and place him on a ventilator in ICU(medically induced coma). Later that same day, he was stablized

enough to have a bronchoscope. The procedure allowed the Doctor to see the mass and do a biopsy...but we would have to wait for the results. That evening, Dad, had to undergo emergency laparoscopic surgery to stop the bleeding that had begun again. Thankfully, the team of surgeons stopped the bleeding. The next ten days were an emotional roller coaster. During this time we recieved the results of the biopsy...it was LUNG CANCER (NSCLC) and stage III. Obivously everyone was devastated with all that was going on. Dad was sedated in ICU and on a ventilator and we were told by the Doctors that we needed to try and take him off the vent. The first couple of tries were unsuccessful and the vent had to be continued. Later we were told that the vent needed to be removed because the chances of him breathing on his own would decrease the longer he was on the vent. As a family, we made the hardest decision anyone could possible have to make, to take dad off the vent. The doctors were not optimistic. After removing the vent, we stayed by Dad's side. To our surprise, Dad's stats began getting better...surprising doctors as well. With renewed hope we were ready to find out what was next. Doctors and hospital personel were arranging Hospice so Dad could go home in a few days. After a few days, Dad continued to get better and the thought of hospice was fading and the option of treatment was now on the table. Our Dad, Eddie or Ed as most call him, was now at home trying to regain the 20+lbs. he lost in the hospital stay. Each day was better than the one before. A couple weeks had past and he was about to begin treatment here in Kankakee, but he then decided to get a second opinion at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. We went and talked with the team of physicians who would be working together to treat Dad and his cancer. Dad learned more in those three hours about his disease and the treatment than he had ever been told before. They gave Dad HOPE and needless to say, he chose to be treated there. Dad has begun his first of four cycles of chemotherapy and radiation treatments. He's doing good thus far. The next couple of months will be hard on everyone, especially Dad. We are trying to make this difficult time a little easier by raising funds to help out with everyday expenses that he incurs. As of today, Dad's expenses well exceed 200K, and with no insurance and no income, help is needed. I graciously ask that you give as little or a big as you want. Any type of help is appreciated. Donations for the benefit on July 18 would be GREATLY appreciated as well.(Check out the Wish List) We will be donating a portion of the proceeds from the benefit to charities that help families affected by cancer and organizations that provide cancer research. Thank you for taking the time to hear our story. God Bless. Update: I'm sad to say that early today June 29th, our father lost his battle with lung cancer. Thank you to for all your prayers. organizer: FELISHA ROBINSON