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Marvin 'Duke' Grinstead

Mar 11, 2017



Marvin 'Duke' Grinstead

Marvin "Duke" T. Grinstead, 79, of Bradley, passed away Tuesday (March 7, 2017) in his home, surrounded by family.

He was born Oct. 4, 1937, in Chebanse, the son of Isaac and Blanche (Curwick) Grinstead. Duke married his sweetheart, Sandy Neese, on Aug. 17, 1963, in Springfield. They celebrated 53 years of marriage.

Duke served in the U.S. Army from 1961 to 1966 as a PFC, receiving recognition as a skilled marksman. During his tour, he was stationed at Fort Dix, N.J., during the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

As a master automotive mechanic, Duke worked at Uptown Sales, in Kankakee, and McCarty Automatic Transmissions, in Bradley, before opening his own garage, Duke's Transmissions. In the 1970s, Duke owned and drove stock cars at the Kankakee Speedway, later hiring the young talented Tommy Kroll to drive his Mercury Cougar number 88. Together, they dominated the circuit. In later years,

he enjoyed gardening and was known to produce and share some of the best tomatoes around.

Surviving are his children, Larry Grinstead, of Rossford, Ohio, and Julie (John) Kokolus, of Mokena; his grandchildren, Christopher Grinstead, Christina Grinstead and Emma Kokolus; and brother, Max Grinstead.

Preceding him in death was his loving wife; parents; and brother, Ray "Sam" Grinstead.

Marvin struggled with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), congestive heart failure (CHF) and colorectal cancer for many years. He had a strong desire to be able to help others in the battle against these terrible, debilitating diseases, therefore, he chose to donate his body to medical science to support research efforts.

There will be no services held at this time.

The family would like to thank all the wonderful staff of Hospice of Kankakee Valley, who greatly helped their family during this difficult time. They are so thankful for the ability to honor their father's wish to be taken care of at home, in a comfortable, familiar and loving environment. Without the help of Hospice, this would not have been possible. The family is forever grateful.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Kankakee Valley online at hkvcares.org, a private nonprofit organization which provides many services to the people in the Kankakee area regardless of ability to pay.

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