



Ernest M. Mills Jr.

May 7, 1949 - September 11, 2021

Ernest M. "Ernie" Mills, Jr. , age 72 of Pocahontas, IL, died Saturday, September 11, 2021, at Barnes-Jewish Hospital (BJC) in Saint Louis, MO.

He was born on Saturday, May 7, 1949, in Granite City, IL, the son of Ernest and Patricia (nee Stephens) Mills.

On Friday, December 12, 1986, he married Bonnie L. Mills, nee Stimson, at Las Vegas, Nevada, who survives.

He was a member of Teamsters.

Ernie was born at Granite City, IL; graduated from Granite City High School; and, attended Southern Illinois University-Carbondale where he was on the wrestling team. He drove for R.M. Dower Trucking Company in Granite City for over 25 years. In 1988, he started raising and training racing thoroughbred horses at Fairmount Park. He and his wife moved to Ohio and worked at Beulah Park, Granite City, OH and Mountaineer Park, Chester, WV for some 21 years. In 2002, he started driving for Estes Trucking Company, retiring in 2017. They moved to Pocahontas, IL in retirement to be with his daughter - they helped with the Wooden Spoon Market and Greenhouse there. Ernie enjoyed being on the farm and at the pond . He was always growing plants and vegetables. His grass cutting style was well-known in the area.

Survivors include:

Wife - Bonnie L. Mills (nee Stimson), Pocahontas, IL

Step Mother - Betty Mills, Collinsville, IL

Daughter - Christy A. (John) Kraus, Highland, IL

Sister - Diane M. (Brian) Lamew, Saint Jacob, IL

Sister - Angela M. (Chris) Logue, Dyersburg, TN

Brother - Stephen S. Mills, Granite City, IL

Nephew - Brandon Lamew

Nephew - Jacob Copeland

He was preceded in death by:

Father - Ernest Mitchell Mills, Sr. - Died 8/28/2003

Mother - Patricia Ann Mills (nee Stephens) - Died 8/22/2013

Sister - Debra A. Mills - Died 12/30/2012

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Private Service will be held by the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to Grantfork United Church of Christ.

Tribute Wall

RB

“ So sorry to hear about the loss of your Husband Bonnie. Praying for you and your family. DONT KNOW IF YOU REMEMBER ME OR NOT.

Richard Brothers - September 20, 2021 at 06:06 PM



Of course I remember you dear Richard. I have been offline caring for him & all that has happened. I hope life is still good my friend.

Bonnie Mills - September 23, 2021 at 07:00 AM

BE

“ I met Ernie and Bonnie through our Thoroughbred aftercare program. Ernie loved his horses and gave them wonderful care. We placed several of his horses into homes and they had such a great foundation - it was clear they were treated with love and kindness while at the track.

You were an ambassador for the sport, Ernie.

I am so sorry for your loss, Bonnie. Sending prayers to you and your family.

Bev - September 20, 2021 at 01:48 PM



Thank you Bev. Indeed he loved his horses & even last month he asked about Goldie/Gambit. Thank you for helping Ernie help them live out wonderful lives

Bonnie Mills - September 23, 2021 at 07:01 AM

DL

“ I would have never met my husband of 50 years if it wasn't for my big brother, who was my husbands best friend. There were so many more things that we wanted to do together and sadly he is gone. I am thankful for all the good times we had together and he will be missed forever and ever. My thoughts and prayers are with Bonnie, Christy, John, Brian, Angie, and Steve as we all go through this difficult time. Rest in peace big brother.

Diane Lamew - September 17, 2021 at 03:28 PM



Ernie loved you & Brian with all he had in him & the get together at the kids house was one of his best times in years. I miss him every minute

Bonnie Mills - September 23, 2021 at 07:04 AM

PL

“ Ernie was such a gentle person who loved all kind of things. We have enjoyed getting to know him and Bonnie and spending time with them. He will truly be missed by his family. God speed knowing there's no more pain and suffering.

Pam & Aimee Lecerf - September 15, 2021 at 01:04 PM

LB

“ Kristy so very sorry for your loss. May God be with you during this very sad time. Sending prayes and my deepest sympathy.

Linda Bohnenstiehl - September 15, 2021 at 10:09 AM