



William M. Burke

December 21, 1947 - February 20, 2013

William M. "Bill" Burke, age 65 of Highland, IL, died Wednesday, February 20, 2013, at Deceased's Residence in Highland, IL.

He was born on Sunday, December 21, 1947, in Pana, IL, the son of James L. and Mary Ellen (nee Havrilka) Burke.

On Saturday, December 11, 1993, he married Jeannie M. Burke (nee Thacker) who survives .

He was a member of the VFW Post 5694, Highland, IL; Lee Iten Post 439-American Legion, Highland, IL; former member of the UAW.

Born at Pana, Illinois; he and his family moved alot because of his father's US Naval career; he graduated from Highland High School in 1966. He served with the US Army, active duty from July 1967 to July 1973 during the Vietnam War; he received the a Purple Heart and Bronze Star medals. He worked for General Motors, St. Louis, Missouri at the Corvette Plant and later at the Wentzville GM Plant; he retired from GM after 32 plus years. He enjoyed his children and grandchildren; playing golf; watching baseball and other sports; gardening and bird watching.

Survivors include:

Wife - Jeannie M. Burke, Highland, IL

Daughter - Kelly (MSgt Andrew, USAF) Guillory, Barksdale Afb, LA

Daughter - Tina M. Burke, Collinsville, IL

Daughter - Nichole L. Burke, Highland, IL

Daughter - Chrystal R. (Steven) Unterbrink, Greenville, IL

Son - Derrek K. (Jennifer) Baldwin, Greenville, IL

Daughter - Jessica A. Carter, Highland, IL

Grandchildren - Six

Sister - Pamela "Pam" Spenner, Highland, IL

Brother - James "Jimmy" (Barbara) Burke, Anacoco, LA

Sister - Patricia "Patty" Bufford, Bramerton, WA

Sister - Judy (Mike) Huhn (twin), Carlyle, IL

Sister - Janet (Neill) Nicolaides (twin), Highland, IL

Sister - Cindy (Bob) Ford, Centerville, IA

Sister - Kathy (Paul) Mitrano, Vero Beach, FL

Brother - Danny (Desiree) Burke, Highland, IL.

He was preceded in death by:

Father - James L. Burke died 12/8/1969

Mother - Mary E. Burke nee Havrilka died 11/23/2012.

Tribute Wall

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“ I would like to thank all of you for your kind words. My father was loved by many. He was the bravest man I have ever known. He was straight out of high school when the government handed him a rifle and sent him to war. The freedom we have as Americans is owed to the men and women like my father who fought for our country and those who are still fighting. Dad was awarded several metals as a result of his service. The Purple Heart for being wounded while serving and The Bronze Star for heroic or meritorious achievement. Anyone who knew my dad, knew that he loved his country. He put a flag pole up in his yard and he flew his flags, proudly. Hell, he painted a 66' Chevy truck into an American flag, I know this because he made me cut out all the stars. I pulled into his driveway in my Nissan Altima and he made me get back in it and park on the street. I didn't argue. I should have known better. He was a hard working man and didn't have much use for those who were fully capable to work but didn't due to laziness. He was a "tough love" kinda guy. I learned early in life not to run to daddy if I was looking for sympathy for any trouble I may have gotten myself into. I can't tell ya how many times I heard, " Ween, you're a big girl, You got yourself into this mess now get yourself out." At the same time, he believed that everyone deserves a second chance when they screw up. He loved us girls, he loved his wife, Jeannie, his family and his friends. I've been told my whole life how I'm just like my dad and I can't think of a better man to take after. Anyway, thanks for listening.

Tina - February 20, 2014 at 02:18 PM

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“ 8 files added to the album My Father



Tina Burke - November 14, 2013 at 12:21 AM