



## Caleb Z. Blanton Jr.

July 3, 1940 - December 9, 2014

Age 74, of Coal City, IL, formerly of Gardner, IL passed away Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at home, with his family by his side. Born July 3, 1940 in Harlan County, KY to the late Caleb and Berlin (nee Saylor) Blanton, Sr.

Veteran of the United States Navy. Retired from Ironworkers Local #444 in Joliet, IL. Caleb loved spending time with his family; he especially enjoyed traveling with his late wife, Donna, whom he married June 14, 1964 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Surviving are three children, Caleb Z. Blanton, III of Everett, WA, Angela Blanton of Kankakee, IL and Amy (David) Lardi of Coal City; five grandchildren, Christian Dawson, Jerrica (Ryan) Sennott, Joshua (Kristina) Lardi, Joel (Rhea Drougas) Lardi, and Molly Lardi; four great-grandchildren, Jack, Ryleigh, Neil, and Evie.

Preceded in death by his wife, Donna (nee Burgess) Blanton on March 22, 2014; and daughter, Jennifer Lee Blanton.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Inurnment with military honors will be in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name to CurePSP: 30 E. Padonia Rd., Suite 201, Timonium, MD 21093 or the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery: 20953 W. Hoff Rd., Elwood, IL 60421 would be appreciated.

# Cemetery

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## **Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery**

20953 W. Hoff Rd.

Elwood, IL, 60421

# Comments

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“ Caleb was like a big brother when he lived with us before he went into the Navy. I still have the doll he bought me when his ship was in port in Spain. Donna lived down the street from us and I think it was love at first sight. She became very close to our family while he was on tour. We were so happy when they finally married. They moved to Florida and we didn't see them as much. However, they always stayed in touch with my Mom and made a point to visit whenever they could. I'm so sorry we lost contact after my mother passed away. I will miss him and I loved him.

Debbie Rickman (Blanche's daughter)

**Deborah L Rickman** - December 15, 2014 at 04:24 PM



“ Thank you Debbie. My dad thought the world of Aunt Blanche and your family. I would love to see a pic of the doll. You could send me one on Facebook if you wouldn't mind. I was always a doll girl too and I still have the last ones he bought me before I got to old for them. I have never been to Washington DC but would love to see where mom and dad met. Maybe someday.

**amy lardi** - December 16, 2014 at 11:17 AM

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“ Dick and I always enjoyed Cal and Donna. Dick remembers that Cal was his Best Man when we were married. Both of us were shocked when we learned of Cal's passing. He was a good friend to Dick and his phone calls were appreciated. He will be greatly missed by us. Dick and Susan Faust

**Dick and Susan Faust** - December 14, 2014 at 09:39 PM



“ I know how much my dad enjoyed spending time with Dick. They were friends for 40 years. Mom and Dad both enjoyed your company. Keep in touch.

**amy lardi** - December 16, 2014 at 11:20 AM

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“ I remember Caleb lived with my family in Washington DC after the Navy. He was such a strong presence, you always knew when Caleb was in the room! I used to look up to him and wish I could be the man he was. He was so tall and strong and extremely confident. I remember Donna and him got a small apartment down the street. I'd always find a way or an excuse to visit. They were so sweet together. He was an special person that I'll never forget. My only regret is not going to see him these past years. We talked about a family reunion, but it never materialized. Love and prayers.

Peter Rickman (Blanche's son)

**peter rickman** - December 12, 2014 at 11:11 AM



“ He was a strong presence. I'm still in shock that he's gone. I thought he would outlive us all. Thank you Peter for sharing. I love to hear of mom and dads early years together.

**amy** - December 12, 2014 at 06:10 PM

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“ Amy & family - I'm so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. He is now having that conversation with your mom - that we taked about!!!! & I'm sure they are both laughing!!!!God Bless you

**Celia Johnson** - December 11, 2014 at 06:35 PM



“ Thanks Celia, love ya!

**amy lardi** - December 12, 2014 at 06:11 PM