



Merrill Cleveland Harvey

May 31, 1945 - October 8, 2015

Age 70, of Gardner, IL passed away Thursday, October 8, 2015 at Morris Hospital in Morris, IL. Born May 31, 1945 in Coulterville, IL.

He is veteran of the United States Army, having been stationed in Germany during Vietnam as a Helicopter Mechanic. After his military service he began employment with Peabody Coal Company and then worked for Commonwealth Edison, retiring after twenty years of employment. After retirement he worked part-time as a truck driver for Dibble Trucking.

He was formerly the South Wilmington Fire Chief and Police Chief. Member of the St. Lawrence Catholic Church and Fireman's Club in South Wilmington.

He was an avid hunter and always looked forward to hunting in southern Illinois at Harvey Deer Camp.

He also enjoyed snowmobiling and four wheeling in Wisconsin. He took pride in his vegetable garden and cared for his beloved animals. Merrill was the rock for his family, whom he deeply loved, and he will be greatly missed.

Surviving are his wife of 48 years, Jeanne (nee Maxard) Harvey of Gardner, whom he married December 10, 1966 in South Wilmington; three children, Angela (Gerald) Kovalcik of South Wilmington, Vicki Harvey of Gardner, and Tim Harvey of Gardner; four grandchildren, Aaron Harvey, Cecily, Chrissy, and Nick Kovalcik; great-grandson, Nicholas "Peanut" Kovalcik; mother, Daisy (nee Edwards) French of Dwight, IL; three siblings, Don "Brother Don" (Margaret) Harvey of Largo, FL, Betty (Mervin) Erickson of Pever, SD, and Charlie (Cheryl) Harvey, Sr., of South Wilmington; and numerous nieces and

nephews.

Preceding him in death were his father, Elijah Harvey; brother, Billy Dean Harvey; sister, Dorothy (Joey) Cotton; and father-in-law and mother-in-law, George and Cecilia Maxard.

Family and friends will meet Monday, October 12, 2015 at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church in South Wilmington for a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. Interment Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, Braceville, IL. Visitation Sunday, October 11, from 4-8 p.m. at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Homes, Ltd. & Crematory, Braidwood Chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name to the South Wilmington Fire Department or St. Lawrence Catholic Church would be appreciated.

Cemetery Details

Braceville-Gardner Cemetery

7295 W. Braceville Road
Braceville, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **11**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home
401 East Main St.
Braidwood, IL 60408
(815) 458-2336
info@rwpattersonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com>

Service

OCT **12**. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

St. Lawrence Catholic Church
165 Rice St.
South Wilmington, IL 60474
(815) 237-2230

Tribute Wall

RB

“ *Jeanne and family,
So sorry for you loss.
Robin (nee Dinger) and Tom Barren*

Robin Barren - October 18, 2015 at 04:25 PM

VH

“ *I will always cherish the time I spent with my Dad. I know everyone says "I have the best Dad" but I can honestly say, without a doubt, my Dad was a remarkable Father. He was there for his family & friends whenever we needed him. He would go without, to make sure we had whatever we wanted or needed. Never once did I hear my Dad complain about anything, other than maybe needing rain to water his garden, but that was it. I'm glad I and my son had such a great role model in our lives. We are grateful for the time we had with my Dad but are very sad it was cut short due to his illness. I was there when he took his last breath & I made sure he knew how much I loved him & how proud I was to be his daughter. I miss my Dad but know in my heart he's still here with us.*



Vicki Harvey - October 17, 2015 at 08:39 PM

PS

“ *Jeanne, I so very sorry I could not attend. He was such a good guy. Memories of high school come to mind. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. So glad that we got to visit with you and him at Ellen's party.
Pat Swisher.*

Pat Swisher - October 12, 2015 at 02:03 PM

JH

Thank you for the kind words Pat. We miss him so much.

Jeanne Harvey - October 17, 2015 at 07:51 PM

BS

“ *I will always fondly remember the peaceful early morning coffee around the table with Merrill and Jeanne while waiting for the rest of the crew to wake up. I enjoyed those times immensely being real quality time with two wonderful people. My thoughts and prayers are with you Jeanne, Angie, Vicki and Tim and all the kids. Take peace in the knowledge that Merrill is now in the embrace of our Lord Jesus Christ and he will be waiting for all of us.*



Barb Sanford - October 12, 2015 at 05:47 AM

JH

Thank you Barb. Merrill enjoyed those times too. He welcomed everyone.

Jeanne Harvey - October 17, 2015 at 08:13 PM

CK

“ *Jeanne, Angie, Vicki and the entire Harvey family. We are so sorry to hear of the passing away of Merrill. You are all in our thoughts and prayers..*

Craig & Janet King - October 11, 2015 at 10:45 PM

JH

Thank you for your thoughts & prayers.

Jeanne Harvey - October 17, 2015 at 08:09 PM

JB

“ *Jeanne, my condolences to you and the family. I had worked alongside Merrill for 20 years at Edison. He was an excellent worker who knew his job well but more importantly , Merrill would not hesitate to offer a helping hand to anyone at anytime. If you were working with him you knew it would not be a dull day, he always kept the guys laughing and on guard! Merrill was a physically strong man but had an obvious love and pride for his family. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, especially me. Jim Benton*

jim benton - October 11, 2015 at 11:38 AM

JH

Merrill thought a lot of you & always looked forward to working with you. I & the kids have heard many stories about the two of you at work. We miss him but have many fond memories & will always cherish the time we've had with him. Thank you for the kind words.

Jeanne Harvey - October 17, 2015 at 07:55 PM

RT

“ *Jeanne and family, may your memory help you to find peace during this very difficult time. Merrill was a very nice man and will surely be missed by many. You're in our thoughts and prayers. Renee, Bailey & Dylan*

Renee Thompson - October 11, 2015 at 08:28 AM

JH

Thank you Renee. It still doesn't seem real but sadly it is. We miss him every day. Thank you for all the prayers.

Jeanne Harvey - October 17, 2015 at 07:59 PM

DL

“ *Jeanne and the Harvey family, I am without words on hearing of the passing of Merrill, the memories I will have of ATV poker runs and Wild Game feeds will always keep a smile on my face. And yes he will be missed dearly by everyone that knew him*

*God Bless
Legs*

dave leggero - October 10, 2015 at 11:32 AM

JH

It seems like yesterday that you & the other ComEd guys were here for his birthday party. We had no idea it would be his last. He thought so much of you Dave. Whenever he planned a get together, you guys were first on his list. He thought of you guys as part of the family. I'm glad you all thought as much of Merrill as he did you. He really was a wonderful man & a great example of a kind, generous, loving human being. He is missed terribly.

Jeanne Harvey - October 17, 2015 at 08:07 PM

DG

“ *Jeanne, our deepest sympathy and prayers are with you and your family!*
Dick and Sharon Granger

Dick Granger - October 09, 2015 at 09:36 PM

JH

Thank you very much.

Jeanne Harvey - October 17, 2015 at 08:14 PM

SR

“ Great memories of visiting with the Harvey's on the 4th of July for several years. They welcomed me like family. I was privileged to have known Merrill. May God make this part of your life's journey easier to endure. Prayers to all of you.

Sandy Rupert - October 09, 2015 at 06:02 PM

JH

Thank you Sandy. It was a privilege to be his wife. He was a wonderful husband, father & grandpa. We all miss him so much.

Jeanne Harvey - October 17, 2015 at 08:16 PM

PC

“ Our deepest and most sincere condolences to Jeanne and the entire Harvey family. Will keep you in our thought and prayers.



Paul & Regian Chase - October 09, 2015 at 02:28 PM

PJ

Jeanie and family, So sorry to hear of your loss. Your in my prayers. Phyllis Jewitt. and the Murphy family.

phyllis jewitt - October 09, 2015 at 07:45 PM

SL

To the Harvey family. So sorry to hear of your loss. I have very fond memories of camping and visiting with the family. He will be missed. Susan (Andersen) Larson & Family.

Susan Larson - October 12, 2015 at 05:35 PM

JH

Thank you for all your thoughts & prayers. Having Merrill in our lives was a true blessing & we will always cherish the time we spent together.

Jeanne Harvey - October 17, 2015 at 08:22 PM