



David E. Ray

January 24, 1946 - April 23, 2024

David E. Ray, 78, of East Peoria, passed away at his home, on April 23, 2024, after a courageous battle with Parkinson's and more recently, cancer. He was born in Canton, IL on January 24, 1946, to Roy and Josephine (Williams) Ray. After Roy died in 1949, Josephine married Harry Fish, who raised David as his own. He married Jeannette Jenner on July 14, 1972; she survives. He was preceded in death by his parents; his stepfather; and his grandson, David E. Dean.

He is survived by his 3 children, Jason Ray and Matthew (Britney) Ray, both of Morton and Erika (Shawn) Dean of Trivoli; 13 grandchildren, Tiffany, Emily, Kaelyn, Logan, Peyton, Ava, Madysyn, Brylee, Fynleigh, Elizabeth, Camden, Alivia, and Jaxon; many nieces and nephews; and his beloved cat, Ruthie Jane. He loved his family unconditionally and was always there to help without question.

David proudly served with the US Navy in Vietnam from August 1965 – February 1967 and on the USS Fulton AS-11 from August 1967 – June 1969. In 1979, he joined the Navy Reserves, retiring as a Senior Chief in 1998. He took great pride in being a pipefitter at Caterpillar and retired as a supervisor, with 39 total years of service.

He enjoyed woodworking, traveling, and spending time with his grandchildren. He was an avid Bears and Cardinals fan. He was an original member and enjoyed Rock Steady Boxing, which he used as a treatment for his Parkinson's.

Memorial Visitation will be from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, April 28, 2024, at Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria, with a Graveside Service, with full military honors, at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, April 29, 2024, at Roberts Cemetery in Morton.

Memorial contributions may be made to TAPS in Pekin or Rock Steady Boxing. Online condolences may be left at www.GaryDeitersFH.com.

Cemetery Details

Roberts Cemetery

300 W. Jefferson
Morton, IL

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

APR 28. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services Inc. - East Peoria
444 E. Washington Street
East Peoria, IL 61611

Graveside Service with Military Rites

APR 29. 11:00 AM (CT)

Roberts Cemetery
300 W. Jefferson
Morton, IL

Tribute Wall



“ Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of David E. Ray



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - April 29, 2024 at 02:24 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of David E. Ray.



April 26, 2024 at 05:30 PM



“ LaMonica Henrekin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David E. Ray.

LaMonica Henrekin - April 26, 2024 at 05:30 PM



“ 37 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - April 26, 2024 at 04:19 PM