



Elwood "Sonny" Reliford

October 18, 1944 - January 15, 2020

Elwood "Sonny" Reliford, age 75, passed away on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at his home in East Peoria.

Sonny was born on October 18, 1944 in Peoria, son of Edward and Marjorie (Bradley) Reliford. He married Becky Thomas on September 20, 1969 in East Peoria, and they celebrated 49 years of marriage before her passing on January 3, 2019.

He is survived by his daughter, Tammy (Paul) Arnold of East Peoria; son, Troy (Julie) Reliford of Mackinaw; brother, William (Patti) Reliford of Carson City, NV; grandchildren, Brooke (Devon) Bristol, Kinsley, Colson, Kylin, and Hudson Reliford; and one great-granddaughter, Avery Bristol.

Sonny served in the United States Army from August 30, 1965 until his honorable discharge and transfer to the Army Reserves on August 29, 1967. He retired from Peoria and Pekin Union Railroad after 41 years of dedicated service. He was a member of Abbas Grotto in East Peoria and was an avid Chicago Cubs and Bradley Braves basketball fan. He loved watching, coaching, and supporting his kids and grandchildren in all their activities.

A visitation will be held at Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services on Saturday, January 18, 2020 from 10:00-11:00 AM. A graveside service will be held at Fondulac Cemetery immediately following visitation. Pastor Lloyd Brock will officiate.

To reflect Sonny's fun, upbeat attitude and love of sports, please wear your favorite sports attire.

Memorial donations may be made to Abbas Grotto.

Online condolences may be left at www.GaryDeitersFH.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services
444 E. Washington Street
East Peoria, IL 61611
(309) 694-9831
gary@garydeitersfh.com

Graveside Service

JAN 18. 11:15 AM (CT)

Fondulac Cemetery
1985 E. Washington Street
East Peoria, IL

Tribute Wall



“ Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Elwood "Sonny" Reliford



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 22, 2020 at 12:58 PM



“ Elwood "Sonny" Reliford

October 08, 2023 at 04:50 PM



“ I usually read the obituaries every day and somehow missed Sonny's. I have known Sonny since first grade and would certainly have attended his memorial service. Although we didn't stay in contact often, we would always make it a point to catch up at reunions. Sonny was one of the nicest people I have ever met and the world needs nice people. He certainly left a legacy that will be passed forward by all who knew him. A hug from Sonny at our reunions was, for me, a hug from family. Our condolences to his family and our congratulations for having this wonderful man in your life. R.I.P. Sonny

Judy Triggs - January 19, 2020 at 10:58 AM



“ 35 files added to the album Life Tributes



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 17, 2020 at 04:37 PM



“ Such a good man. I won't be able to attend the Visitation on Saturday but my thoughts and condolences will be with the family. You never knew what he would say or if he meant to say what he said. Such as going to a NASCAR race and looking for a place to eat. There was a parking lot with a lot of cars. He said, "that looks like a good place to eat, they're busy". It was a car dealership. RIP my friend.

Jim Holloway - January 17, 2020 at 01:11 PM



Sonny always had a smile to share with everyone. My sympathy to the family. Sonny has acquired his Angel Wings and know he will be missed.

Mavis and Mick Miller - January 18, 2020 at 10:45 AM



I'm so sorry to hear of Sonny's passing. We have been friends since high school and kept in contact through the years. Sonny was one of the nicest person I knew. I saw him on his birthday right before we left for Florida He will be missed. My condolences to his family.

Jean Slater - January 21, 2020 at 12:14 PM