



Mr. Henry R. Pratt Jr.

August 15, 1948 - November 6, 2018

On Tuesday, November 6, Henry Pratt of Washington, IL, died peacefully at the OSF Richard L Owens Hospice Home in Peoria, IL. He was born August 15, 1948, to Henry R Pratt, Sr and Evelyn M. (O'Brien) Pratt at St. Francis Hospital in Peoria, IL. Henry is survived by his wife, Linda (Elliott) Pratt, son James (Rosemary) Pratt, daughter Maureen (Greg) Osborn, daughter Christine (Michael) Staub, daughter Melissa (Kenneth) Wheeler, and eight grandchildren (Elizabeth, Clara and Ian Osborn, Abigail, August and Luke Staub, and William and Joan Wheeler), one brother John (Donna) Pratt. He was preceded in death by one brother Lester.

He attended elementary school at St. Mark's in Peoria (Class of 1963), high school at Spalding Institute (Class of 1967), and college at the University of Illinois Springfield (Class of 1973). Between high school and college, he joined the United States Navy and served for three years in Vietnam on the USS Windham County LST-1170.

Henry married his high school sweetheart, Linda Sue Elliott on June 9, 1973, in Peoria, IL, which he fondly remembers as the best day of her life. Together they created a legacy of life, love and faith within their family. Never doubting his love, their children chose fine partners through the example established between their parents. His children honor their 45-year marriage by continuing their legacy through their marriages and children. Papa Henry is legendarily known for his belly laughs, fish kisses, and cookies for breakfast.

Henry returned to the United States Navy as a Second-Class Machinist Mate

in the early 1990's and retired as a First Class Machinist Mate with Gold in 2010. Shortly after September 11, 2001, he was called to active duty for Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Enduring Freedom. A son of a World War II Veteran and a Veteran of six separate campaigns himself, Henry loved his country and the freedoms his brothers and sisters in arms fought for. In addition to his successful career serving our country, Henry worked at Caterpillar, Inc for 38 years, retiring as an experimental mechanic from the Peoria Proving Grounds.

Additional activities Henry enjoyed were the Peoria Jaycees, Assistant Scout Master of Troop 225, being a member of the American Legion Post No. 2, Washington Knights of Columbus (3rd & 4th Degree, former Grand Knight), Cursillo and CEW, lecturing and singing in the choir at this church, trout fishing in Lake Michigan as well as the Arkansas River, shooting sports, sitting around campfires under the stars drinking coffee, road trips and spending time with his family.

When learning of his cancer diagnosis, he decided to be joyful about having a full life, rather than sad about having to die. Celebrations to honor his life will be held at Gary Deiters Funeral Home 444 E. Washington St., East Peoria, IL, on Sunday, November 11th, from 2-5 pm. Funeral mass will be said at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Washington, IL, on Monday, November 12th, at 10am. Burial will follow at Glendale Cemetery in Washington. Military rites will be accorded.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the organizations near to Henry's heart: Building Hope in Kids - Uganda or the OSF Richard L Owens Hospice Home.

Cemetery Details

Glendale Cemetery

600 Oakwood Lane
Washington, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 11. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

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

Service

NOV 12. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church
705 E. Jefferson Street
Washington, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Henry R. Pratt Jr.*

October 08, 2023 at 04:50 PM



“ *Learned of Henry's death from the St. Patrick newsletter. I saw Henry and my Uncle Virgil's funeral, recently, so was surprised by his death.*

Your husband and father was faithful, wasn't he. God bless him, and you all.

David Volk - November 26, 2018 at 09:15 AM



“ *To Henry's family*

My name is Jim O'Laughlin and I went to Spalding with Henry . We did not keep in touch after high school and I did not know what had ever happened to him until last year at the HONOR QUILT presentation , I was on stage to receive mine when they introduced everyone and who was beside me but Henry . I am so glad that he got to share that honor with me . I would like you to know that he was missed on the honor flight . My wife and I came to the visitation but after standing in line for 30 minutes I knew that my legs would not let me stay any longer . So I wanted to let you know that he was a good friend and a good man and I hope you all will forgive me for not being able to stay and tell you so myself ,

Jim O'Laughlin - November 12, 2018 at 02:43 PM

BW

“ Prayers and deepest sympathies to Linda and family. Our thoughts are with you.

Barbara & Miles Walsh - November 12, 2018 at 09:34 AM

JP

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Mike and Jean Poniske
Chris Poniske
Angie (Poniske) Huerta

Jean Poniske - November 12, 2018 at 09:04 AM

RG

“ Linda and family.
You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.
Rick and Lottie Gorski

Rick Gorski - November 11, 2018 at 07:27 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Henry R. Pratt Jr..



November 10, 2018 at 12:57 PM



“ 49 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - November 09, 2018 at 03:58 PM



“ *Basket of Memories* was purchased for the family of Mr. Henry R. Pratt Jr..



November 09, 2018 at 02:09 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray* was purchased for the family of Mr. Henry R. Pratt Jr..



November 09, 2018 at 10:34 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Henry R. Pratt Jr..*



November 09, 2018 at 08:43 AM



“ *I had the absolute priviledge of being among a group of guys accompanying Henry on two fishing trips to Arkansas. Henry could tell a story like nobody else! But I can say in all truth he took me under his wings on my trips as i am no fisherman. He graciously showed me how to clean a trout and showed extreme patience with my general ineptitude. Well...he had the ability to not totally lose his patience, showing his kind and caring self. When he had enough of me, he would dismiss me to fish at the "bathtub," an easy place to catch trout, while he went off to use his fishing skills elsewhere. I will miss his bellowing, exasperated expression: "Eddie my Boy" as he shook his head and walked away. To Linda and the kids...my deepest sympathies. He is no doubt in his element right now...spinning tales and doing a lot of explaining about his life well spent.*

Edward Thompson - November 08, 2018 at 07:38 PM