



Jeff L. Watters

October 18, 1960 - May 2, 2023

Jeffrey L. "Jeff" Watters, 62, of Abingdon, passed away on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at River Crossing of East Peoria. He was born on October 18, 1960, in Galesburg, to Ernie L. and Carol E. (Burton) Watters. He married L. Marlene (Howerton) Goodlaxson on Dec. 1, 1979. They divorced in 1994.

He is survived by his daughters, Reece (Reva) Watters of Mount Pleasant, Iowa and Taryn (Shelby) Watters of Creve Coeur; son, Reggie Logan (Melani) Watters of Virginia Beach, Virginia; granddaughter, Kembria; sister, Dodie Townsend of Abingdon, longtime girlfriend, Ruth Fortune of Burlington, Iowa; and many other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Jeff was a big St Louis Cardinals fan. He loved the legends, John Wayne and Evel Knievel, and listening to Elton John on his record player. He collected steins and hot wheels and enjoyed watching cooking shows and experimenting with food in his refrigerator. He was quite the jokester and got a big kick out of pranking his children and loved ones any chance he got. He was an avid animal lover and always welcomed the stray cats in the neighborhood. All around, Jeff was a great man, a great friend, and a loving father. He will be missed dearly until the end of time.

Cremation rites have been accorded. There will be a Celebration of Life on June 10, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the American Legion in Knoxville, IL. Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria is assisting the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family to assist with final expenses. Online condolences may be left at www.GaryDeitersFH.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 10. 6:00 PM (CT)

American Legion
749 Henderson Rd
Knoxville, IL 61448

Tribute Wall



“ *It's been a year and almost 5 months since my dad left us. It has gotten easier but I still mourn. I still cry. I pause and stare at our picture on the wall often. I think about him everyday. I'm holding on to the tradition of being the jokester and making my friends and family laugh. I try so hard to keep going. To fix up things that he left unfinished. It's hard and frustrating, but I have to keep trying. I have to keep going and not give up. I love and miss you dad. Forever and ever, your 1st born. The apple of your eye, Lacy Reece*

Lacy Reece Watters - September 26, 2024 at 07:13 PM



“ *Jeff L. Watters*

October 08, 2023 at 04:50 PM

LG

“ I was married to Jeff for 15 years. He was a very kind, thoughtful and loving person who to the best of my knowledge never had an enemy. We had 3 beautiful children together. L Reece, R Logan and Taryn Lea Watters. Even though we went our separate ways, Jeff is always in my heart. He gave me the 3 best gifts of my life with which I will be forever grateful to him. He loved his children unconditionally. I do believe that the sudden passing of his father Ernest Lee Watters, was more than he could bear. Jeff was definitely a jokester and I believe he got that from his father, but I feel that he never was able to accept losing him. Which I definitely understand. The love he had for his father was put into his children. He loved them so deeply that it showed in his face every time he saw them. He was a terrific person who lost his Dad, his best friend too soon. He was forever changed. I missed the Jeff I knew. My heart broke for him. Unfortunately we parted but we still cared a lot for one another and shared the beautiful bond we had for our children. I do feel that he is at peace now eternally with his Father and Mother. I definitely will always remember you Jeff. Rest easy my first love. 💔

L Marlena Howerton Goodlaxson - May 15, 2023 at 12:21 PM

RS

“ I was Jeff supervisor at Shearers foods for a short time....fantastic guy. Enjoyed working with him. He was always laughing and joking. RIP Jeff.

Rich Smith

Rich smith - May 06, 2023 at 06:17 PM

CR

Our sympathy to the family of Jeff. The Watters family were friends forever. Jeff was a great guy he will be missed. Love to the family.

Clarence and Dorothy Roberts - May 07, 2023 at 07:57 PM