



Mark E. Kowalske

May 12, 1929 - December 24, 2025

Mark E. Kowalske, 96, of East Peoria, peacefully passed away on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, at Snyder Village in Metamora. He was born in Peoria on May 12, 1929, to Ed and Carrie (Thornton) Kowalske then married Elva Giebelhausen on March 6, 1955, in East Peoria. Together, they shared 66 years of marriage until Elva's passing on March 17, 2021 (Due to the Covid pandemic, the family was unable to have a memorial service for Elva, so we will be celebrating her life on January 6th as well).

He is survived by his two sons, Dr. Keith Kowalske and Dr. Randy Kowalske, both of East Peoria, as well as his sister, Carol Arnold of Brimfield.

Mark attended the University of Illinois until he was called to serve in the Korean Conflict, where he served as Military Police in the Army. After completing his military service, he returned to Peoria and continued his education at Bradley University. Following his studies, Mark began his professional career at Caterpillar through The Apprenticeship Program. He dedicated 35 years to the company, ultimately retiring as a transmission design engineer.

Mark was an active member of the AF & AM Masonic Temple Lodge Number 46, which he joined in 1950. He achieved the 32nd Degree within the Scottish Rite and was affiliated with the Shriners, as well.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria. A memorial service celebrating both Mark and Elva will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Pastor Brian Pape will officiate. Military honors will follow, with a private burial at Fondulac Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Shriners Hospital or a charity of the donor's choice. Online condolences may be left at www.GaryDeitersFH.com.

Cemetery Details

Fondulac Cemetery

1985 E. Washington Street
East Peoria, IL

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JAN 6. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

JAN 6. 6:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



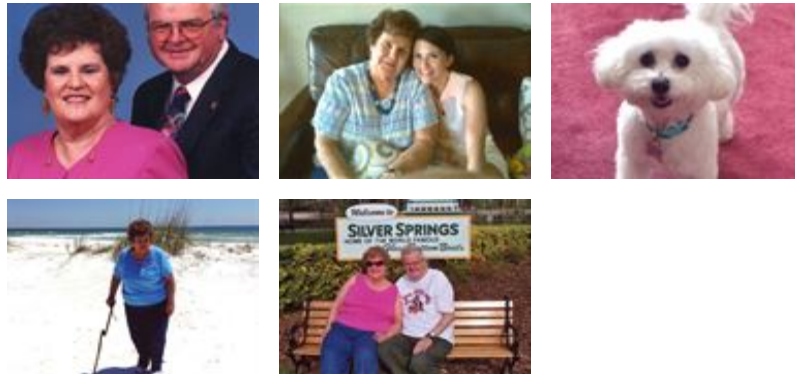
“ Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Mark E. Kowalske



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 07 at 12:36 PM



“ 30 files added to the album Life Tributes



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 06 at 11:39 AM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Mark E. Kowalske.



January 05 at 07:15 AM



“ *Very sorry to hear about your Father. He was a good man .*

Greg Smith

Greg Smith - January 04 at 10:10 AM