



Ray A. Martin

September 20, 1951 - March 26, 2024

Ray A. Martin, 72, of East Peoria, passed away on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 7:10 p.m. at Carle Health Methodist Hospital in Peoria. He was born in Peoria on September 20, 1951, to Eugene and Evelyn (Cobb) Martin. He married his wife of 50 years, Janice Couri, on June 16, 1973, at St. Monica Catholic Church in East Peoria; she survives.

Also surviving are his three children, Diane (Chris) Murphy of Morton, Thomas Martin of Peoria, and Matthew (Shelby) Martin of Fairview; his mother, Evelyn Martin of Morton; his brother, Donald (Joann) Martin of Zanesville, OH; his sister, Christine (Donald) Wheeler of Groveland; 7 grandchildren, Troy, Jenna, Rylie, Lauren, Madison, Katherine, and Emma; 17 brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; Vickie (Paul) Flynn, Karen (Fred) Clark, Bob (Kathy) Couri, Deb (Bill) Spears, Sue Couri, Cindy (Lester) Behrends, Jeannine (George) Jacob, Beth (Ed) Olehy, Tricia (Jeff) Lambrich; and 44 nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Thomas and Jeanette Couri; and one brother-in-law, Michael Couri.

Ray graduated from EPCHS Class of 1970 and worked as a machinist at Caterpillar for 35 years, retiring in 2009.

He enjoyed fishing, gardening, woodworking, and sketching. If the weather was nice, you'd always find him on the river in his boat fishing or at a local lake. He was also an amazing handyman that could fix anything and loved helping people with anything they needed. Everyone knew he was always a phone call away, no matter the time of day or night, if something was broken

or needed fixing. During his spare time, he loved to draw, sketch, and make furniture. He had a huge heart for animals, especially dogs; always had a huge smile on his face and loved pranking and joking around with his family. But most importantly, he loved being a husband, dad, and grandpa. He loved taking his kids and grandkids fishing and boating and teaching them about fishing, gardening, and woodworking. If you were doing any of these things with him, he made sure you were hands on, taking your own fish off your hook or using the drill to help build something. He also loved going to all the grandkids' sports and school activities and in his retirement, he enjoyed picking his grandkids up from school, driving them around and laughing when they always referred to him as "Chauffer Bob".

Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. on Monday, April 1, 2024, at Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria. A Funeral Service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at the funeral home, with additional visitation from 9:00 a.m. until the time of service. Father John Steffen will officiate. Burial will follow at Fondulac Cemetery in East Peoria. Memorial contributions may be made to Hooked on Fishing. Online condolences may be left at www.GaryDeitersFH.com.

Cemetery Details

Fondulac Cemetery

1985 E. Washington Street
East Peoria, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 1. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Visitation

APR 2. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

APR 2. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



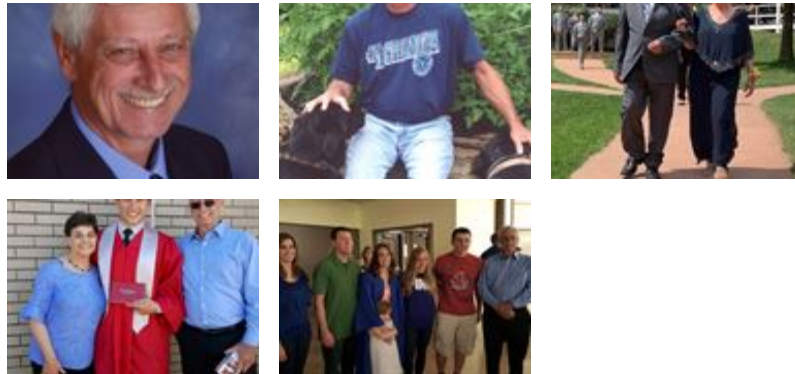
“ Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Ray A. Martin



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - April 01, 2024 at 08:07 PM



“ 44 files added to the album Life Tributes



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - April 01, 2024 at 12:04 PM

KC

“ Sorry to hear of Ray's passing, prayers are with Janice and family. I remember many fun times hanging out with Ray during and after high school. Whether it was helping him with a handyman job, going along when he would be the captain of Couri's Foodtown boat delivering groceries to the barges or just kicking back having a beer or two and of course watch Ray playfully pick on someone and have a good laugh!! RIP Ray ...

Kevin Couri - April 01, 2024 at 11:09 AM

CR

“ Christine R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ray A. Martin.

Christine R. - April 01, 2024 at 10:06 AM

LF

“ Love, The Bennett Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ray A. Martin.



Love, The Bennett Family - April 01, 2024 at 09:39 AM

LF

“ Love, The Bennett Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ray A. Martin.

Love, The Bennett Family - April 01, 2024 at 09:39 AM

JW

“ We are so sorry to learn of Ray's passing.

Jennifer Wheeler - March 30, 2024 at 09:26 PM

JS

“ I worked with Ray at Caterpillar for several years. I'm heartbroken to hear of his passing. He was always fun to work with. We always joked with each other back and forth. When I think of the good times I had at work, Ray is always right there at the front in my mind, always smiling. My deepest condolences to his family.

Jim Sharpe - March 29, 2024 at 11:17 PM

DJ

“ Donald Martin Jr. purchased the Sweet Tenderne ss for the family of Ray A. Martin.



Donald Martin Jr. - March 29, 2024 at 07:36 PM

DJ

“ Donald Martin Jr. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ray A. Martin.

Donald Martin Jr. - March 29, 2024 at 07:36 PM