

Joel Heitkamp, 70

Dec. 25, 1939 - April 7, 2010

HARLAN — Joel Dean Heitkamp, son of Walter and Ida (Mack) Heitkamp, was born on December 25, 1939, in Fort Dodge. He was baptized at the Pomeroy Lutheran Church and confirmed at the Farniville Lutheran Church. Joel attended Ogden Community School where he graduated with the class of 1957. After school, Joel enlisted in the United States Air Force and was stationed in Puerto Rico, serving as a Chaplin's assistant. After being discharged from the service, he moved to Phoenix, AZ, where he worked for Reliance Electric as a purchasing agent.



In 1966, Joel was united in marriage to Amyda Dansberry of Tucson, AZ. In 1982, Joel and Amyda moved to Prescott, AZ, where they purchased Prescott Liquors. In 1994, they moved to Tucson, AZ, where Joel was employed at Albertson Foods. In 1998, Joel moved to Harlan, where he retired in 2003. Joel enjoyed Antique Car Shows and owned several antique cars. Among his favorites were a 1949 Cadillac, 1950 Ford Woody Wagon, 1948 Desoto, and a 1947 Buick Convertible. He owned 50 some antique cars in his life and was very active in car clubs. He also served as a driver for Barrett Jackson Auto Auction. Joel loved playing cards and in 1998, he won a seven card stud poker tournament in Las Vegas, beating 120 other entries. Joel was also an avid gardener, specializing in container gardening. He served as president of the Garden Club in Harlan for two years. Joel died on Wednesday, April 7, 2010, at the Avoca Nursing and Rehab Center in Avoca, having attained the age of seventy years, three months, and thirteen days.

Joel is preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Paul. He is survived by his sisters Elaine and her husband Vern Hall of Avon Park, FL and Judi and her husband Paul Schmidt of Harlan; his sister-in-law Kathy Heitkamp of Malvern; nieces; nephews; other family members and many friends.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, April 13, 2010, at Peace Lutheran Church in Harlan, with Rev. Merlene Ostebee officiating the 1:30 PM service. Serving as honorary casket bearers were: Vern Hall, Wayne Ankenbaur, Sam Nicklos, Mike Sipple, Richard Schmidt, Damon Schmidt, Josh Heitkamp, and Brandon Burma. A private disposition will be held at a later date.

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