

Ernest Harold Duvall, Jr.
April 30, 1942 - July 20, 2024
Obituary

Ernest Harold Duvall, Jr. passed away surrounded by his loving family on Saturday, July 20, 2024 at Lewis County General Hospital Residential Health Care Facility in Lowville, NY.

Mr. "Ernie" Duvall was born on April 30, 1942 in Buffalo, NY to Ernest H. Duvall, Sr. and Ellen (Allen) Duvall. As a young boy, Ernie and his father survived being swept into a tornado that hit Route 3 in Watertown. At eleven years old, Ernie's mother died. He and six younger siblings were placed at St. Patrick's Orphanage in Watertown, NY in the care of the order of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Ernie received formal education at St. Patrick's School (now Immaculate Heart Intermediate School), and was loved by his foster parents Henry and Francis Manchester (known as Grandpa and Grandma Manchester to Ernie's sons). Ernie's father later married Catherine Badalato, and Ernie eventually became one of eighteen children with siblings Keith, Gladys, Malcolm, Dorothy, Avan, Normagena, Ronnie, Stevie, Deb, Francine, Butch, Earl, David, Tommy, Skippy, Betty, and Roger.

In 1958, Ernie joined the United States Army, earning the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and a certificate of honorable discharge in 1964. Thereafter, he joined the 50th Armored Division of the United States Army National Guard, serving for more than two decades. Following his retirement, he worked as a driver for the City of Watertown and Guilfoyle Ambulance.

On May 3, 1963, Ernie married Rita A. Calhoun at Asbury United Methodist Church in Watertown. They received a Catholic blessing of their marriage in a ceremony held at Holy Family Church in Watertown. Mr. Duvall enjoyed nearly 55 years of marriage with Mrs. Duvall until her death in 2017, and was the devoted father of four sons and daughters-in-law who cherished him: John and Christy Duvall (Watertown), Michael and Cathy Duvall (Sherrill), Geoffery Duvall and Kristan Peck (Watertown), and Richard and Elizabeth (dec.) Duvall (Redwood).

Ernie's humor and selflessness attracted friends everywhere he went. He spent his life giving back to his community as a Troop Leader for Boy Scouts Troop 35 in Adams, NY, an ambulance driver for the Town of Watertown Fire Department, and an active member of the Watertown Eagles Club, American Legion Post 61, and Rodman Masonic Lodge. A consummate hard worker and proud provider, he worked several jobs, often more than one at a time, including positions with American Finance, Kinney Drug Store, and Jefferson Rehabilitation Center. Additionally, he and his wife owned and operated Harbor Crafts Boutique showcasing the work of local artisans for more than a decade at locations in Watertown and Sackets Harbor.

Ernie enjoyed antique cars, coins and stamps, hunting and fishing, and rummage sales. Most of all he enjoyed being surrounded by his family, particularly in his role as Grandpa Ernie to ten adoring grandchildren who survive him. Ernie is also survived by his brother Keith, sister Gladys, and many great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, foster parents, daughter-in-law Elizabeth Duvall, and siblings Malcom, Dorothy, Avan, and Normagena.

Ernie's family would like to extend their gratitude for the compassion and care shown to Ernie at the end of his life by the staff and residents of the LCGH RHCF third floor, Lowville, and Meadowbrook Terrace Assisted Living Facility, Carthage.

Calling hours for Ernie will be Thursday, July 25 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Reed and Benoit Funeral Home, 632 State Street, Watertown. Funeral services officiated by Father John Michael Demo will be held at the funeral home on Friday, July 26 at 10:00 a.m., followed by burial at Glenwood Cemetery, 23348 County Rd 67, Watertown. Following burial, all who loved Ernie are invited to join his family in celebrating his life at the Watertown Eagles Club, 19260 US Route 11, Watertown. In lieu of flowers, donations in honor of Ernie may be made to the Watertown Eagles Club, 19260 US Route 11, Watertown, Town of Watertown Fire Department, 22825 County Route 67, Watertown, Disabled American Veterans 216 Haley Street, Watertown, or the Elizabeth May Duvall Foundation NNYCF, 131 Washington St., Watertown.