



Carroll J. "Bud" Wilkins

November 28, 1935 - July 15, 2012

Carroll J. "Bud" Wilkins, of Cadillac, passed away Sunday, July 15, 2012, at his home after a lengthy illness, surrounded by his loving family and the wonderful people of Mercy Hospice. He was 76.

He was born November 28, 1935, in Delray, W.Va., and came to Michigan at a young age with his parents. After graduating from Lincoln Park High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict. In 1956, he married June Gorham and was blessed with two children during their 14-year marriage, a daughter, Carol, and a son, James. In 1978, he married the former Joan Grice (Gauld) of Cadillac, with whom he enjoyed many happy years in the company of their large blended family.

Employed at Speeds Automotive for 42 years and retiring in 2006, Bud continued to visit the store almost daily for coffee, doughnuts, the latest news and a fresh joke.

For many years, he was active in the local chapter of the Miss America Pageant, serving as the executive director from 1986 to 2002. His beloved pageant family selected him as the first inductee into the Local Association of Michigan Pageants (L.A.M.P.) Hall of Fame. He was also actively involved in the Jerry Lewis Telethon for 12 years.

Right up to his final day, Bud was always good for a new joke and brought much laughter and color to those around him. His many children and grandchildren were the lights of his life, his door always open to each of them.

He is survived by his wife, Joan of Cadillac; children, Carol (Art) Hurd and Jim (Judy) Wilkins of Ohio; stepchildren Mike (Jean) Gauld, Laurie Gauld, Julie (Dale) Rice, Shari Miller, and Bradley Gauld of Cadillac; 19 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren; sisters, Phyllis Nims and Lucille (Paul) Fater; sister-in-law Mary Grice (Jerry) Keith; brothers-in-law Richard and John Grice, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, H. Ivan and Hazel Wilkins; brother-in-law, Carl Nims; and step-great-grandson Hunter Flemming.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, July 18, 2012, at Peterson Funeral Home in Cadillac. Interment will be at the Mount Carmel Cemetery in Cadillac. Visitation will be on Tuesday, July 17, 2012, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Mercy Hospice.

An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Tribute Wall

KF

“ My thoughts and prays are with you Joan and your family.I met Bud about 17yrs ago when my daughter Jessie got involved with the pagents, Bud was always there with a kind word and encouragement,I know it meant alot to her.But most of all I think I will miss you on Sundays when you come in to Helsels for breakfast. I am truly blessed to have known you.

Kim Fredin - July 19, 2012 at 10:05 PM

JF

“ I will miss Bud grealy. He was an awesome man. May God give you the grace you need in this difficult time.

Jean Fauble - July 18, 2012 at 05:04 PM

CG

“ Mr. Wilkins was always supportive of my efforts competing in the Miss Michigan Pageant. He always had a kind word to say and I know he was greatly devoted to the Miss America Program. Blessings to his family and know that many loved and appreciated him. I' m sure he will be greatly missed by many. Sincerely, Chris

Chris LaRock Gorton - July 18, 2012 at 09:51 AM

WE

“ our thoughts and prayers are with Joan and family

Wayne & Dorothy Everett - July 18, 2012 at 09:02 AM

BG

“ Our thoughts are with you all at this time. Bud was a very dear friend. He will be missed.

Bill & Diane Gruber - July 17, 2012 at 09:11 PM

KM

“ We want each one of you to know how much Bud was loved and we're praying for all. Ken lost a very good friend, and remembers how he and Bud used to roam the woods each summer on the farm, when he and sisters came to spend the summers there. They even talked Phyllis to get into an old wagon on top of the hill, they pushed the wagon and down she came and went into the hog pen. It's memories like that makes it a great reminder of how onery and good man that Bud was and we loved him very much. May you all rely on God to help with the pain and the loss.

Ken & Linda Merritt - July 17, 2012 at 02:31 PM

KM

“ I hope you finally found your tractor

KC Mowrey - July 17, 2012 at 01:05 PM

BS

“ Our thoughts are with you all at this time. Bud will forever live in our hearts and memories.

Brent and Heidi Schubring - July 17, 2012 at 11:51 AM

MM

“ Please know that we are there with you in spirit and wish God's blessings on you all...

Merlyn & Shireen Merritt - July 17, 2012 at 11:22 AM