



Ned A. Sowards

January 9, 1941 - January 25, 2015

Ned Alan Sowards died January 25, 2015, at 12:43 p.m. at Goshen Hospital in Goshen, Indiana after a 2 ½ year battle with cancer. He was born in Bluffton, Indiana on January 9, 1941, the third child of Bertha (Baughman Wertzberger) and Joseph A. Sowards. He married Myrna Boren December 22, 1962, and they had one son, Michael Alan, of Clovis, California.

Ned was a 1959 graduate of Allen High School in Bluffton, Indiana, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from Purdue University in 1964. After graduating from Purdue, Ned worked at General Tire in Wabash, Indiana, until enlisting in the army in 1966.

Ned had basic training in Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri and AIT and Officer Candidate School in Fort Belvoir, Virginia where he received his commission as a Second Lieutenant. He was stationed in Dexheim, West Germany with the 12th Engineering Battalion, where he was made Company Commander of B Company.

After leaving the army, Ned relocated to Sturgis, Michigan in 1969. He worked for Kirsch Drapery Hardware Co. in engineering, and remained with Kirsch Co. until his retirement in 1999.

Wood carving and cooking were two of Ned's hobbies. He made beautiful

animal carvings, and in the last several years established the tradition of carving signs for weddings and other special occasions. Ned was active in Boy Scouts, and became an Eagle Scout and member of the Order of the Arrow while in Bluffton, Indiana. As an adult, he later became a board member for Boy Scout Troop 431 in Sturgis, and was very active. Ned took the scouts on many outings and outdoor adventures, including a trip to the Boy Scout High Adventure Base in the Florida Keys. He recently became a member of the American Legion, Post 73 in Sturgis, Michigan. Ned had a quick wit, a sharp sense of humor, and a deep Christian faith. He was a follower of Christ and a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Sturgis, Michigan. Ned was deeply loved by friends and family, and will be greatly missed.

Ned was preceded in death by his parents, and his eldest sister, Arlene (Sowards) Harvey. Ned is survived by his wife Myrna (Boren), his son Michael, daughter in law Bernadette, sister Nancy (Sowards) Dunwiddie of Bluffton, Indiana, brother John Sowards of Fort Wayne, Indiana, brother in law John D. Boren of Martinsville, Indiana, and numerous nieces and nephews.

People wishing to make a donation in Ned's name can contribute to Trinity Lutheran Church in Sturgis, Michigan or with the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews in Chicago, Illinois.

Funeral services will be held at the Thoma/Rich Lemler funeral home in Bluffton, Indiana on Friday, January 30, 2015. Visitation will be from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the funeral will begin at 1:00 p.m., in the funeral home. Pastor Calvin J. Kolzow, Jr. will officiate. Burial will follow at Six Mile Cemetery in Bluffton, Indiana. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Six Mile Cemetery

4795 SE State Road 116
Bluffton, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 30. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Service

JAN 30. 1:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ned A. Sowards*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - January 30, 2015 at 02:17 PM



“ *Ned A. Sowards*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *Dear Myrna,
I was so sorry to read of Ned's passing. It seems too soon but I guess we don't have any say in that and I just hope you find comfort in your many memories of your life together. The pictures you have shared here are wonderful keepsakes. Peace be with you in the days ahead. Nancy Vandergeest*

Nancy Vandergeest - February 01, 2015 at 06:50 PM



“ *Dear Myrna, I'm so sorry for your loss. I worked with Ned at Kirsch Company. He was always kind and helpful and had a great sense of humor. My thoughts and prayers are for you, your son and family. God Bless you all! Sharon Bowman*

Sharon Bowman - February 01, 2015 at 10:36 AM

LG

“ Myrna,

Bernadette is one of my closest friends here in Fresno, California, and I had the pleasure to meet you and Ned at Mike and Bernadette's wedding. We want to express our deepest sympathy to you, Mike and Bernadette. May you always sense Neds presence, see his face, and hear his voice. In time, may his healthy days be your strongest memory. Peace and love to you during this difficult time. Lisa, John, Ariana and Adam Garabedian

Lisa Garabedian - January 30, 2015 at 11:23 PM

BB

“ Myrna,

So sorry to hear of Ned's passing. He fought the good fight and has reached his reward. May the peace of God overshadow you and yours during this time of loss.

Ballard Ray Boren

Ballard Boren - January 30, 2015 at 04:15 PM

LD

“ Love, Gay and Phil Duran purchased the Simply Lily for the family of Ned A. Sowards.



Love, Gay and Phil Duran - January 29, 2015 at 09:41 PM



“ *Fields of Europe was purchased for the family of Ned A. Sowards.*



January 29, 2015 at 05:07 PM



“ *Myrna...We have missed you both...Peace be with you...with great love and respect..
Rick, Sheri and Sam Leck*

sheri Leck - January 28, 2015 at 09:19 PM



“ *Myrna,*

Sorry to learn of Ned' s passing. I knew Ned from working at Kirsch as engineering secretary. Ned was one of my favorite people and especially liked his honesty and knowledge. I always knew how much he loved you and Michael and hope this will give you some comfort in the days ahead.

*Deb Yesh
Colon, MI*

Deb Yesh - January 28, 2015 at 05:26 PM

SF

“ Dear Myrna,
I am so sorry to learn of Ned's death. He leaves quite a void. While we didn't see each other often, I was always so tickled to see both of you. Ned's dry humor was always quite entertaining, to say the least! You learned to "hold your own" well! I love this picture of him ~ it captures him well. May peace replace heartache, in time, and leave you with so many wonderful memories. Love and hugs, Myrna.
Sandy Geist Funk



Sandy Geist Funk - January 27, 2015 at 11:19 PM



“ White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Ned A. Sowards.



January 27, 2015 at 10:34 AM

DI

“ Prayers for peace and comfort during this time.

Randy and Diane

Diane - January 27, 2015 at 10:18 AM

BS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bernadette Sowards - January 26, 2015 at 09:29 PM

IW

“ I am So terribly sorry to here of your Dads passing,
I want you to Know that just because our lives have taken different paths, that you and your family still mean an awful lot to me, you guys really helped me to grow, love and become who I am today.

You , your mother, and your father are now and always will be close to my heart.

Sincerely,
Ian Winkens



Ian Winkens - January 26, 2015 at 07:32 PM

BS

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Bernadette Sowards - January 25, 2015 at 09:58 PM

BS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Bernadette Sowards - January 25, 2015 at 09:53 PM

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Bernadette Sowards - January 25, 2015 at 09:52 PM

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Bernadette Sowards - January 25, 2015 at 09:51 PM

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Bernadette Sowards - January 25, 2015 at 09:50 PM

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Bernadette Sowards - January 25, 2015 at 09:50 PM

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Bernadette Sowards - January 25, 2015 at 09:49 PM

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Bernadette Sowards - January 25, 2015 at 09:31 PM

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Bernadette Sowards - January 25, 2015 at 08:59 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Bernadette Sowards - January 25, 2015 at 08:57 PM

SL

Myrna...we have missed you both at the wired service. Peace be with you. With love and great respect ..Rick Sheri and Sam Leck. .

sheri Leck - January 28, 2015 at 09:16 PM

BS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bernadette Sowards - January 25, 2015 at 08:55 PM

LK

To our new friends, Ned & Myrna.... We would very much liked to have known you both sooner, and under better circumstances. But only our Lord knows , how when and why.. we are family in Christ, and someday we will all be "feasting at the table" together. You both are very courageous and went thru a fierce battle. Our prayers and friendship now and always, Myrna.. " I hold it true, whate'er befall; I feel it, when I sorrow most; Tis better to have loved and lost, then never to have loved at all" Alfred, Lord Tennyson.

*In Sympathy,
Larry and Pam*

Larry & Pam Kokta - January 29, 2015 at 02:36 PM