



## David E.J. Pepin

May 28, 1946 - September 16, 2013

David E.J. "Dave" Pepin, 67, of Grant Park, passed away Monday (September 16, 2013) at Kindred Hospital, Hammond, IN. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Saturday at the Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Manteno. A funeral mass will follow at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at St. Joseph Church, Manteno. Rev. Albert Heidecke will officiate. Burial will be in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Manteno. Memorials may be made to Make A Wish Foundation or to the donor's choice.

He was born May 28, 1946 in Kankakee, the son of Deacon Elmer and Irma Pepin (Binder). As a child, David attended Hall of the Divine Child in Monroe, Michigan, an elementary military academy for boys. He graduated in 1959. He then went on to attend and graduate from Manteno High School. He married Barbara Schultz in 1969, though the marriage later dissolved.

David loved to fly. He worked at the Kankakee Airport in exchange for flying lessons, and eventually became a certified pilot. He passed this love of flying and airplanes on to his sons and grandsons.

David worked in the defense industry for the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant, and held several certificates in the fields of instrumentation and automation, as well as high explosive processes. David had been involved in law enforcement since 1970, and went on to serve as the head of the Merit Commission for the Kankakee County Sheriff's Department.

As a young man, David began a lifetime collection of antique Japanese swords. He was an extremely knowledgeable collector and dealer. He got in

on the ground floor of Japanese sword collecting and excelled at it, both in the United States and Japan. David made contributions to both history and society by placing culturally important and cherished works of art into the custody of those who will preserve them for posterity. Through David's efforts, thousands of antique Japanese swords have been preserved, he encouraged new collectors, and he assisted others with translation and research. He exhibited his collection for the Dept. of the Navy (Naval Memorial Museum), and the Dept. of the Army (US Military Academy at West Point, NY). He was a lifetime member for The Society for the Preservation of Japanese Art Swords, Tokyo, Japan (The Nippon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai.), an official organization of the Japanese Government, Ministry of Education. David was a lifetime member of the Japanese Sword Society of the United States (JSSUS).

One of the pinnacles of David's career was to receive an invitation from the government of China to visit China and evaluate the Japanese swords they had confiscated from the retreating Japanese Army at the end of World War II. Over his lifetime, David excelled in horology (the art of measuring time, i.e. clocks and watches), antique firearms, gemology, and fine art. He also became proficient in the reading of old Japanese kanji.

David was honorably discharged from the United States Air Force, and worked for the U.S. Government in several capacities, including assisting the FBI on several cases involving stolen art and art fraud.

Over the years David became quite fond of Saint Therese the Little Flower and prayed to her often.

Per David's wishes he will be buried with the ashes of his favorite pet, a German shepherd named Hanna.

We love you dad. We will cherish all of the good memories and one day be together again. You will be missed by many.

David was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Grant Park Lions Club, and the American Legion.

Surviving are two sons, Matthew (Amy) Pepin, of Kankakee, and Tim (Missy)

Pepin, of La Crosse, WI; four grandchildren, Jeremiah and Adam Pepin, and Grace and Joshua Pepin; his mother Irma Pepin, of Manteno; one brother, Karlan (Beth) Pepin, of Manteno; and one niece, Michele Pepin, of Bourbonnais.

He was preceded in death by his father, Deacon Elmer Pepin; one nephew, Anthony Pepin; and one brother, Dene Pepin.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph Cemetery

9000 E. Road  
Manteno, IL 60950  
(815) 263-6287

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 21. 9:00 AM - 11:15 AM (CT)

Manteno - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
291 N. Main St.  
Manteno, IL 60950  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Funeral Mass

SEP 21. 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Church  
207 S. Main St.  
Manteno, IL 60950  
(815) 468-3403  
<http://www.stjosephmanteno.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ I am shocked to hear that David is no longer with us. In the late 70's, I was in the Coast Guard, stationed in a lighthouse in Eagle Harbor, Michigan.

I collected samurai swords, and David would send me very old swords to inspect, to enhance my knowledge of swords. We spoke on the phone almost every day. He helped to keep my sanity in the lighthouse! I have thought about him many times over the years, and someday, I will see him again!

Sir Garrett Valentino  
Scottsdale, Arizona



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**Garrett Valentino** - September 04, 2015 at 11:40 AM

JH

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Dave's passing. He was a good friend and a complete and thorough gentleman. I am honored to have known him.

John Hollister

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**John Hollister** - November 27, 2013 at 07:51 AM

DE

“ Lord, as I stand here, i am praying for this family's huge loss even still today those that may be grieving. I am sorry I could not attend services as we were out of town. Though somehow, I heard of this happening and prayed. I met him through an ad in paper for a caretaker and we would talk for almost an hour at a time on a variety of today's topics; including common stomp grounds and all I can say is I am sorry I never got to meet this incredible person in person, but we always shared something about the Lord and all He was doing on this earth through us. One time we were going to meet up and it fell through and I told my husband how it saddened me. There's another time he said in encouragement. . .  
But there isn't now and so, I testify that IF this can help anyone else anywhere, to go while it's still called today and meet up with your beloved ones~ I believe I will do better because of David. Thanks be to the Lord whom always causes us to triumph for him.

*Sincerely your friend, Debra D.R.*

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**DebraRatcliff** - November 16, 2013 at 10:32 AM

DR

“ To The Family and Friends of Dave-

*We have all suffered a loss. My family and I wish all that mourn a calmness and understanding, and the peace that comes with knowing he is in a better place.*

*Over 30 years ago, I bought a samurai sword, and found an ad Dave ran at that time. He was an animal person, and we had an amazing amount in common. Although I only met him once in the '80s, when he was at Laguardia airport, our friendship grew. Decades of phone conversations ranging from pet and animal issues, swords, pocket watches, colored gems, guns, religion, alcohol, flight, weather, art.... I would get very late night emergency calls, discussing his pets and their sudden worsening of their problems.*

*I always told Cindy that if I was ever on the show " Who Wants to me a Millionaire", and had a question about something Dave would be my phone a friend. He was amazingly knowledgeable about a huge variety of issues.*

*When I look around my house, I see so many gifts from Dave. When our kids were young, we would exchange Chanukah /X-mass gifts. Emily has a print on her wall and a doll in her room from Dave maybe 20 years ago. Phil has an old book on Greek mythology. Our walls, have prints, scrolls, many things that were generously given over the decades of holidays and celebrations.*

*As we all age, it becomes harder and harder to find really special people. Dave was one of our special people, ad his voice will be missed.*

*With Love and Empathy,*

*Irwin, Cindy, Phil and Emily Ruderman*

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**Dr. Irwin Ruderman** - September 26, 2013 at 03:42 PM

MW

“ *Mary Whitten lit a candle in memory of David E.J. Pepin*



**Mary Whitten** - September 22, 2013 at 08:17 PM

RS

“ *Rafe Stroud lit a candle in memory of David E.J. Pepin*



**Rafe Stroud** - September 20, 2013 at 10:13 PM

RS

“ *David and I had a unique relationship--we worked together, he was my teacher, my mentor, my guide and most importantly, one of my best friends. We shared many laughs and good times, even though we never met in real life! Through many long phone calls and emails we became fast and close friends, I thank God the Father through His Son our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus for the honor of allowing our paths to cross in meeting a man I greatly honored, loved and respected, one of the kindest and most unique people I've ever had the honor of knowing. Our condolences go out to David's family and to his mother, God bless Mrs. Pepin.*

*Au revoir, mon ami, rest in the arms of God, we will celebrate your amazing life!*

*Your eternal friends,  
Rafe and Carol*

**Rafe Stroud** - September 20, 2013 at 09:56 PM

SB

“ I will miss my friend David who always shared a laugh and a smile everytime I spoke with him. Rest in peace my friend.

*Sandra Berlin*

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**Sandra Berlin** - September 20, 2013 at 04:33 PM



“ My Condolences to the Family of David Pepin;

*I first met Dave when we were classmates together at St. Pat's High School back around 1960/61 or so; a very interesting and bright guy back then. I was glad to make contact with him again after returning to Kankakee from the Navy and joining the Police Dept - David had a real interest in Law Enforcement and was always a good friend. My deepest sympathy to his family.*

*Ron Riml, LT, Kankakee City Police, Ret; East Boothbay, ME*

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**Ron Riml** - September 20, 2013 at 12:17 PM

KR

“ Dear Tim, Matt and family,  
We send our deepest sympathies. David was a good friend and he will be missed. We know he is at peace and free of all discomfort and that is a blessing. May he rest in peace.

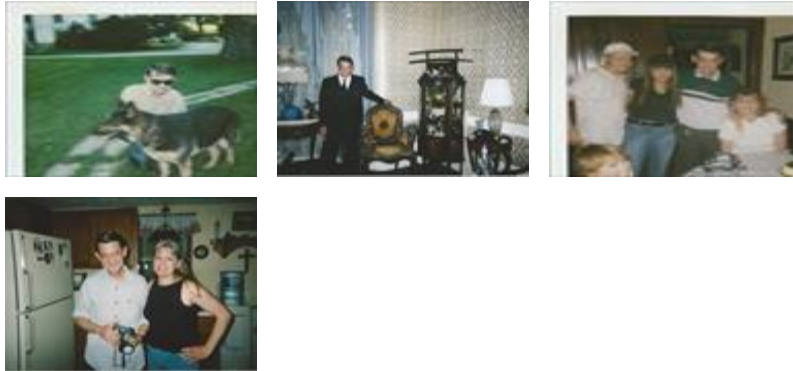
*Ron and Karen Ramos*

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**Karen Ramos** - September 20, 2013 at 11:24 AM

LI

“ 4 files added to the album Memories



Lisa - September 19, 2013 at 05:20 PM

MK

“ Mary Kaliski sent a virtual gift in memory of David E.J. Pepin



Mary Kaliski - September 19, 2013 at 12:02 PM

MK

*you will live on in my heart David. I love you and will miss you my dear friend. R.I.P*

Mary Kaliski - September 19, 2013 at 12:14 PM

NK

“ Nicole Kaliski lit a candle in memory of David E.J. Pepin



Nicole Kaliski - September 19, 2013 at 11:07 AM

EF

“ *EARL FRANKLIN lit a candle in memory of David E.J. Pepin*



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**EARL FRANKLIN** - September 19, 2013 at 08:18 AM

EF

*R.I.P MY FRIEND*

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**EARL FRANKLIN** - September 19, 2013 at 08:19 AM

LM

“ *Lisa Mclaughlin lit a candle in memory of David E.J. Pepin*



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**Lisa Mclaughlin** - September 18, 2013 at 07:48 PM