



Grover J. Baker

January 7, 1926 - May 22, 2020

Grover J. Baker, 94, of Kankakee, passed away on Friday, May 22, 2020 at the Illinois Veterans' Home in Manteno. He was born on January 7, 1926 in Cullom, the son of Grover John and Elizabeth (Radin) Baker. He married Patricia Lemenager in February 1947. She preceded him in death on December 30, 2001. He married Donzetta M. Paap on November 11, 2006. She preceded him in death on May 27, 2015.

Grover was a graduate of Ash-Clif High School. He was a United States Army veteran, having served from 1942 until 1946 as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division in the European theatre of World War II. He was awarded the Bronze Star. Grover was a self-employed general contractor and home builder. He was a member of the Kankakee VFW, Kankakee American Legion, and Kankakee County Historical Society. He was a longtime member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. Grover enjoyed fishing, hunting, boating, and woodworking.

Grover is survived by two daughters, Connie and Arthur Licon, of Clifton and Jean and Keith Perry, of Seattle, WA; two sons, William and Irma Baker, of Martinton and Jim and Denise Baker, of Custer Park; six grandchildren, Jason and Cassandra Licon, Elizabeth and Mike Miller, YN2 Jon Perry of the United States Coast Guard and Hannah Perry, Gabriel Baker, TSgt. Michael Baker of the United States Air Force, and 1st Lt. Patrick Baker of the United State

Marine Corp; and nine great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wives, Patricia Baker and Donzetta Baker; one grandson, Joe Baker; two brothers, Irvin and Paul; and three sisters, Della, Velma, and Gertrude.

Grover's family would like to extend a special thank you to Nurse Colleen at the Illinois Veteran's Home.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, private family services will be held at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee. Burial will follow at St. John the Baptist Cemetery in L'Erable.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Kankakee Valley or the Kankakee County Historical Society.

Cemetery Details

St. John the Baptist Cemetery

L'Erable, IL

Tribute Wall

DH

“ So sorry to learn that Grover has passed.
What a guy he was, I am sure he helped light
up the lives of his fellow veterans in Manteno.
Always knew him to have a smile and a story
to share. Rest in peace Grover.



The family of David and Diane Hinderliter

David Hinderliter - June 01, 2020 at 04:53 PM

MD

“ I never met your dad, Bill, but you always talked about him as a
great dad you went on the pontoon with, he taught you about
building. Wish I had met him, and your mom, because they raised a
very spacial son! Mary Jane

Mary Jane Timm Denault - May 30, 2020 at 02:31 PM

DC

“ My deepest sympathies for the passing of your Dad/Grandpa. He
was a real treat to have in at the museum decorating trees. What a
great life he lived! Thoughts and Prayers for you all.

Deidre

Deidre Coble - May 29, 2020 at 04:34 PM

DM

“*Connie, I just read of the passing of your dad. Cathy and my sympathies, of course. I will remember how blessed I was that he would permit me to hear his story of the war and share it with the Kankakee area via my column.*

Denny Marek

Dennis Marek - May 27, 2020 at 03:05 PM

JC

“*I was so sorry to read in the paper that your Dad passed away. It is so hard to loose your father and had to be so hard not to be able to visit him. Our thought and prayers are with all of you. Have so many good memories growing up with the Bakers. I think our parents and your grandparents use to get together to play cards at least once a week. Also had a lot of fish frys with the fish we caught down in L'Erable. Back then everyone called him Jr. You have such a friendly family. He was always so happy to see you and give you hug. He will be missed a lot but you know he is in a good place now.*



*Love
Jan & Carl Coleman*

Jan & Carl Coleman - May 26, 2020 at 10:52 PM

LR

“ I am so very very sorry for the loss of Grover. I knew Grover my whole life and considered him a second father to me, his family was my family. When I was a kid i used to help Grover building his houses, but it was never really "work". Every time I went back to Kankakee I always visited Grover and I will miss him forever, he was one of my best friends my whole life.

Lee P. Randall

Lee Randall - May 26, 2020 at 06:25 PM

MG

“ Sorry for your loss. I have such fond memories growing up across the alley from the Baker's. Mike Girot

Michael Girot - May 26, 2020 at 06:18 PM

FF

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. I have such fond memories of growing up next door to the Baker's. I used to love to watch my dad and Grover clean their fish after a day of fishing. Such sweet people. Thoughts and prayers for you all. Sincerely, Francie (Mason) Ferrara

francie ferrara - May 26, 2020 at 04:16 PM

JF

“ When Grover was at Riverside Senior Life I was his Housekeeper. What a sweet man. I helped him do his puzzles and he liked to hug me. So sorry for your loss. But he's in a far better place now.

Joyce Farley - May 24, 2020 at 04:04 PM

NR

“ Jean, Connie and the Baker family. We are sorry to see this about your dad. Your folks were wonderful neighbors and your dad was always helping out whenever needed. May God Bless you all during these difficult times.

Ed and Nancy Rodgers

Nancy Rodgers - May 24, 2020 at 02:09 PM

CM

“ Grover you can RIP now. I had the privilege of caring for him the last few years of his life at the Manteno Veterans Home. He was the the sweetest (but also stubborn) man you could meet. I loved him like a dad. He wasn't allowed to see his family for the last 6 weeks and it took a toll on him, as it is with all of our Veterans at the home. In his last few days, I could see how sad he was and spent a long time hugging him and telling him how much his family misses him and loves him. That was the last day that I saw him before he passed away.

My sincere condolences to Connie and Jim and his entire family for the loss of your dad (grandpa) who was a a true hero and beautiful person.

Nurse Colleen

Colleen Mysliwicz - May 23, 2020 at 07:35 AM

PR

“ I'm so very grateful I got to spend some time with this wonderful man! Sending love to his family!



Patricia Ross - May 22, 2020 at 09:17 PM

EM

“ *Deepest sympathy to Jim and family. Grover was a special kind of man. Enjoyed getting to know him and listen to his many stories and Jokes*

Elaine Munoz - May 22, 2020 at 04:33 PM