



John Rieken

October 4, 1936 - July 6, 2009

John P. Rieken, 72, of Kankakee, died Monday (July 6, 2009) at Vermilion Manor Nursing Home in Danville. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. Thursday until the 11 a.m. funeral service at the Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, west Kankakee. Burial will be in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood. Memorials may be made to the Oncology Department at Provena St. Mary's Hospital. Mr. Rieken was formerly employed by Stegmeyer Dist., managed grain elevators and was a bartender at Tiny's Tap. He was born Oct. 4, 1936, in Kankakee, the son of Chester and Ethel Wolgast Rieken. He was a graduate of Kankakee High School, where he played on the basketball team. He graduated from Olivet Nazarene University and attended Valparaiso University in Indiana and Pasadena College. He served in the U.S. Air Force. He was an avid sports fan, especially of the New York Mets and Penn State. Surviving are one sister, Venita Kelly of Bourbonnais; one brother and sister-in-law, Ronald and Charlene Rieken of Phoenix, Ariz.; nine nieces and nephews, several greatnieces and great-nephews and two great-great-nephews. One brother-in-law, Vernon Kelly, is deceased.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Album*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - December 07, 2010 at 03:23 PM



“ Beverly and I extend our deepest sympathies to John's family.

I'll always remember John's great show on the KHS basketball teams. He was a superb team player.

Every reunion I looked forward to reconnecting and reminiscing about our past trials and tribulations. On a few occasions we continued our storytelling within the friendly confines of the Tiny Tap Lounge.

God bless his soul and may he rest in peace.

Wayne###imported-begin##Wayne Putnam###imported-end##

July 07, 2009 at 10:14 AM



“ John was great guy with compassion for all and a person you could talk to about anything because of his extreme knowledge. He will be missed by all, and mostly by his friends at "THE TAP" who tested his sports stats, etc.###imported-begin##dick & anne ogdon###imported-end##

July 07, 2009 at 10:14 AM



“ Whoops, I meant 1953 and 1954 team. i¿½Too early in the morning.

Wayne###imported-begin##Wayne Lockwood###imported-end##

July 07, 2009 at 10:14 AM



“ John was a person you just had to meet one time and you weren't considered a stranger anymore, we both enjoyed his contagious humour and his love of sports. He will be deeply missed. Our condolences to the Rieken Family, God Bless!###imported-begin##Greg and Barb Dams###imported-end##

July 07, 2009 at 10:14 AM



“ Johnny, we'll miss ye. i¿½We met in first grade at Steuben School (1942) and kept in touch through 2004. i¿½You were the smallest guy on the great 1957 and 1958 KHS basketball teams but the one with the most spunk. i¿½Fans remember well your unique move to stand behind the opposing free thrower, only to have him back into you after shooting. i¿½Your fall to the floor (beautifully choreographed) inevitably drew a foul and more than once produced a point for the Kays (you were a dependable shooter from the line). i¿½Above all, you were upbeat and friendly, even when health problems were heavy on your shoulders. i¿½Thanks for being such a good person.

Wayne###imported-begin##Wayne Lockwood###imported-end##

July 07, 2009 at 10:14 AM



“ Even tho I personally did not know John, he is related to me thru my mom and therefore my cousin also. While doing some family research, I found pictures of him as a child with my Mom. And I remember well his mother and father, Ethel & Chester Rieken. The family has my sincere sympathy. Meri Knapp

July 07, 2009 at 10:14 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy to John's family and friends on his recent death. John and I were close friends from elementary through high school, and we stayed in touch after we both left Kankakee for college and military service. In fact, John was in my wedding party when I was married in 1965. We were able to renew our long acquaintance at our 50th class reunion in 2004. John sat with me and my wife, Shirley Flannery Siegle, at our table during the class reunion banquet, and we had a great time talking about our years together growing up in Kankakee. We will both miss John a great deal. Jim Siegle

July 07, 2009 at 10:14 AM



“ I worked with John a couple of summers for the KKK County Road Dept, played softball and summer basketball together. Hadn't heard or seen him in years when a mutual friend told me he was tending bar at Tiny's Tap a couple of years ago when I was back in Momence on a visit so I called him on the phone and we had a great visit remembering fun times from way back when. He was a great guy and I was glad we got to touch bases even if it was just a phone call.

My deepest sympathies to John's family.

Someday hopefully we will get to play ball again on a brand new field.##imported-begin##Joe Peterson##imported-end##

July 07, 2009 at 10:14 AM