



Thomas Hayward

July 31, 1942 - August 14, 2006

Thomas Hayward -- Kankakee Thomas G. (Long) Hayward, 64, of Kankakee and retired captain of the Kankakee Fire Department, died at home Monday (Aug. 14, 2006), following a courageous battle with cancer. Cremation rites have been accorded. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, west Kankakee. Relatives and friends are encouraged to attend this celebration of Tom's life. A private burial will take place at a later date at Aroma Township Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, Hospice of Kankakee Valley, or to the family wishes. Tom was born July 31, 1942, in Henry, the son of Virgil and Margaret Childs Hayward. He attended Lacon Grade School and graduated from Thornton High School in Harvey. In March 1969, Tom began his career as a firefighter and paramedic with the Kankakee Fire Department, where he continued for 27 years until his retirement in 1996 as captain of fire prevention, education, and investigation. Tom attended fire prevention and education classes at Kankakee Community College and in Champaign. After his retirement from the fire department, Tom drove Bus 13 for First Student of Kankakee from 1999 until a few months prior to his death. Tom enjoyed hunting bear, deer and wild boar with his friends, and shooting sporting clays with his friends and his wife. Tom also enjoyed working crossword puzzles, watching westerns, and yelling at the Cubs. Tom was a member of the Illinois Associated Firefighters Local 653, the Teamsters Union, National Sporting Clays Association, and the National Rifle

Association. Tom is survived by his wife, Sharon Sain Hayward, whom he married Oct. 27, 1998, in Kankakee; one sister and brother-in-law, Barbara Hayward Erickson and Ed Erickson of Houston, Texas; seven stepchildren and their spouses, L. Michael Blakeney of Bradley, Adam Blann of Merrillville, Ind., Dennis and Pam Bowsher of Kankakee, Scott and Sandy Bowsher of Bradley, Tony and Allyson Bowsher Martini of Aurora, Taryn Bowsher of Kouts, Ind., Robert and Kelly Bowsher Jarvis of Kankakee; 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; uncle and aunts, Helen Zerkel of Kankakee, George and Priscilla Childs of Hazel, Ky; and several cousins. Deceased are his parents and first wife, Janet (James) Bowsher Hayward.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Album*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - December 07, 2010 at 02:38 PM



“ *To a true friend and a real brother.##imported-begin##Thomas R Pepin##imported-end##*

August 16, 2006 at 12:59 PM



“ *NULL##imported-begin##Scott Pepin##imported-end##*

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“ *NULL##imported-begin##John F. Dattilo##imported-end##*

August 16, 2006 at 12:59 PM



“ No words can bring comfort to Tom's family at this most difficult time, but feel comforted by the thought that you loved, cared and were courageous with him in his battle. May Tom's memory always remain alive in your hearts and the moments that were shared, always cherished.
With Deepest Sympathy for your lost,
Carolyn Fowler

August 16, 2006 at 12:59 PM



“ What a great guy he was! He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. It takes a man of Tom's stature to raise someone else's kids and to do such a great job at it. Jan couldn't have picked a better father for her children. Our sincere sympathy to Allyson, Denny, Taryn, Scott, and Kelly and all the spouses and grandchildren and also to his beloved wife whom his time with was much too short. Our love to all of you and Tom and your family's our in our prayers.

August 16, 2006 at 12:59 PM



“ You have our deepest sympathy. May God bless all of you.

August 16, 2006 at 12:59 PM