



Gary Dean Blankenship

June 22, 1948 - November 16, 2022

Gary Dean Blankenship, 74, of Mt. Vernon, passed away November 16, 2022, at his home.

He was born June 22, 1948, in Marion County, Illinois, the son of Clayton and Wava Marcene (Lowery) Blankenship. On April 16, 1969, in Mt. Vernon, he married Janet Sue Ellis, and she survives in Mt. Vernon.

Mr. Blankenship was a Veteran of the United States Air Force, and worked as an aircraft mechanic on T-31's, F-105's, and F-4's. He then worked as a delivery driver for UPS for 25 years. He loved airplanes of every kind and would track them on his flight app. He also flew ultralights. He attended Farrington Grade School and was a graduate of Salem Township High School. He loved camping with his grandkids.

In addition to his wife of 53 years, Janet Blankenship, he is survived by one daughter, Melanie Lynn Warner and husband Jamey of Mt. Vernon; two grandchildren, Ella Marie Warner of Raleigh, North Carolina, and Jesse Thomas Warner of Mt. Vernon; brother, Tom L. Blankenship and wife Jean of Bryan, Ohio; niece, Melinda Sprow and husband Mike of Defiance, Ohio; nephew, Chris Blankenship and wife Crystal of Liberty Center, Ohio; special cousin, Diana Hirons of Bluford, Illinois; special sister-in-law, Anita Royce and husband Ralph of Tempe, Arizona; and many special friends and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clayton and Wava Blankenship; and grandparents, Gretta (Minor) and Jess Lowery, and Fred and Belle (Bond)

Blankenship.

Funeral services for Mr. Blankenship will be held at 1:00 p.m. Monday, November 21, 2022, at the Osborn Funeral Home in Dix, with Marty Mills and Gale Lowery officiating. Burial will follow at East Salem Cemetery, with graveside military rites accorded by American Legion Post #141, of Mt. Vernon. Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. until the hour of service, Monday, November 21, 2022, at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the American Legion, Post #141, or to the East Salem Cemetery, and will be accepted at the service, or by mail to the Osborn Funeral Home, P.O. Box 130, Dix, Illinois 62830. Online condolences may be made at www.osbornfuneral.com, or on the Osborn Funeral Home Facebook page.

Cemetery Details

East Salem Cemetery

Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 21. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Osborn Funeral Home
322 North Main Street
Dix, IL 62830
(618) 266-7231
office@osbornfuneral.com
<https://www.osbornfuneral.com>

Funeral Service

NOV 21. 1:00 PM (CT)

Osborn Funeral Home
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Tribute Wall

KM

“ Janet, Melanie and Family, Thinking of you today with a heavy heart for your great loss. Sending my love and prayers, Kathy Maronski

kathy maronski - November 21, 2022 at 07:28 AM

SP

“ Janet and Family,
We are so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Our sincere sympathy for your loss.
Steve and LuAnn Pugh

Steve and LuAnn Pugh - November 20, 2022 at 10:09 PM

SP

“ Steve And LuAnn Pugh lit a candle in memory of Gary Dean Blankenship



Steve and LuAnn Pugh - November 20, 2022 at 10:05 PM

AC

“ Janet, Melaine and family we are so sorry to hear about We will never forget the good times we had together We sure had a good time on vacation in Ky. Gary was such a good person. Love you all

Allen Sherie Cople - November 19, 2022 at 01:09 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gary Dean Blankenship.*



November 18, 2022 at 01:19 PM



“ *We always tried to send Gary our flight itineraries over the years since he enjoyed tracking our adventures. Greg Maronski*

Gary enjoyed retelling the "My peas" story which was high comedy with some drama thrown in. Greg Maronski

Francis G Maronski - November 18, 2022 at 10:54 AM



“ *I am holding all of you close to my heart. Loved our camping trips. I will never forget Gary and Kevin staying up all hours of the night with a huge fire. The bigger the better. I can only imagine the fire they have built now in heaven. And you know that they are watching and talking planes as they always did. Keep the memories close ❤️*

Jennifer Witzel - November 18, 2022 at 09:24 AM