

Garry J. Kafton, 79

Nov. 6, 1938 - Dec. 19, 2017

WESTPHALIA – Garry Joseph Kafton, the son of Nels and Zelma (Uhl) Kafton, was born in rural Monona County near Danbury on November 6, 1938, along with his twin brother Larry. He was baptized and confirmed in St. Mary's Catholic Church of Mapleton.

Garry grew up in Mapleton, and attended Mapleton High School graduating with the class of 1956. After high school, Garry attended Iowa State University for a short time before returning home to

help on the family farm. While living in the Mapleton area, Garry was united in marriage to Cora Grell. To this union two children were born: Kaja and John. The two later parted ways. On December 31, 1965, Garry married the love of his life, Linda Bengel, in Dayton, OH. The two were blessed with two children: Kristine and Michael.

Garry followed his sister Carla to Anchorage, AK and began working for National Cash Register. This was the beginning of a 37-year long career as a service technician with NCR which allowed him to live in Alaska, New Mexico, and eventually return back to Iowa and reside in Westphalia since 1978. Garry retired in 2000.

Garry will always be remembered as a true gentleman with an incredible sense of humor and the ability to get along with anyone. He loved to travel with Linda, visiting family and friends. He and Linda also participated in a couples bowling league which allowed them to travel to tournaments from coast to coast. Garry ran in the Corporate Cup Run in Omaha, NE for nearly a decade which helped contribute to his coffee cup collection. He served as an assistant Girl Scout leader in New Mexico as well as enjoyed being the flagman at car races in Alaska.

Garry passed away Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at the Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan.

Garry was preceded in death by his parents Nels and Zelma Kafton; twin brother Larry (Connie) Kafton; and his grandparents.

Left to cherish his memory include his loving wife of nearly 52 years Linda Kafton of Westphalia; daughter Kaja (Julie) Shinn of San Antonio, TX, son John (Judi) Bates of Middleton, ID, daughter Kristine Schmitz of Harlan, son Michael (Wanda) Kafton of Norfolk, VA; siblings Joan (Bruce) Utterback of Hemet, CA, Carla Fick of Battle Creek, IA, Kenneth (Peggy) Kafton of Mapleton, David (Celine) Kafton of Castle Rock, CO; grandsons David (Jennifer) Schwery of Slater, Matthew (Melissa) Schwery of Vass, NC, Zachary Schmitz of San Diego, CA, Luke Schmitz of Virginia Beach, VA; granddaughters Keaghan Shinn of San Antonio, TX, Emily Bates of Boise, ID, Alana Schmitz of Harlan, Kiley Shinn of San Antonio, TX, Kelly Bates of Middleton, ID; great grandson Wyatt Schwery and step-great grandchildren JJ and Mariah Delgado of Vass, NC; sister-in-law Ann Brittan of Cookeville, TN.

A funeral service was held Friday, December 22, 2017 at the Armstrong-Van Houten Funeral Home in Mapleton. Pastor Jena Manchester officiated with committal services following in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Mapleton.

Condolences may be sent online at www.armstrongfuneral.com.

