



Lyle Melvin Thornburg

November 26, 1936 - December 6, 2019

Lyle Melvin Thornburg, 83, of Kalkaska passed away at home surrounded by his family on December 6, 2019. Lyle was born in Petoskey, Michigan to the late Oza and Louise (Rattray) Thornburg on November 26, 1936. He served in the Marine Corps from 1954 to 1960 where he excelled on the pistol shooting team. Later he worked as a heavy equipment operator, then as a truck driver for Mobile Oil. After moving back to Kalkaska, he served as a reserve police officer for 11 years. Lyle enjoyed hunting and fishing, as well as playing cards and shooting pool. Lyle is survived by his children: Tammy (John) Harper, Teresa (Wayne) Granger, Terri (Craig) Crambell, and Norman Thornburg, Glen (Camilla) Thornburg; grandchildren: Kyle, Kelly, Wayne, Brett, Katie, Grant, David, Adam, Matthew, Warren, Daniel, David, Elizabeth, and Brandon; great-grandchildren: Maison, Hudson, Anderson, Andrew, Benjamin, Vera, Teagen, Sydney, Holly, Dylan and one on the way, and his loving wife and friend of many years, Norma Thornburg; siblings: Neil (Betty) Thornburg, Dale (Valerie) Thornburg, Carol Thornburg and Jeannie (Dick) Lee. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings: Iver Thornburg and Janice Fisher.

The family wishes to express their sincere & special thanks to the Grayling Hospice Team for their excellent & compassionate care. Memorial donations can be made to Munson Hospice, 1105 6th Street, Traverse City, MI 49684.

He was quite the jokester and loved to make others smile and laugh. He believed music was the key to life because a person couldn't stay angry or sad while listening to good song. He has donated his body to research at U of M. Lyle didn't have the opportunity to finish high school, he received his GED in the Marines. Because of this, he loved saying that he was going to U of M...and not as a student, but to teach.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, December 14, 2019 at the Kalkaska Senior Center, 303 S Coral Street, Kalkaska, from 1-4pm.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Events

DEC **Celebration of Life** 01:00PM - 04:00PM

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Kalkaska Senior Center

303 S Coral Street, Kalkaska, MI, US, 49646

Comments



“ I remember a couple of years ago my dad had to spend a couple of days in the hospital. My dad HATES hospitals, when he goes and spends more than 1 hour there he is wanting out real bad. Anyway, he had been in there for a day and wanting out, so he's telling his nurses that he has 2 dogs at home that are locked in and need fed, and he's sure that they need out by now, but no one can go near them because they will bite them. This goes on for 2 more days. Not letting up, he is still bugging the nurses to go home. The nurses are ready to call animal control for him so they can be fed and taken care of until he can go home. They never say a word to me about it. My Uncle Dale comes to visit him one day, and the nurses pull him aside and ask if he can help his dogs in his house in anyway? He tells them, he's got 2 dogs alright, they are made out of ceramic. The nurses were ready to kill dad. He just laughed.

Terri Crambell - December 11, 2019 at 08:23 PM



“ Best back up a county sheriff deputy could ever have. Thanks for everything Lyle.
Doug Koronka

Doug Koronka - December 10, 2019 at 02:24 PM



“ This makes me sad... He's was a wonderful man.. He used to come into the deli at Notthland and tell us all jokes and make us laugh... He's going to be missed.... Rest easy my friend... It's never goodbye it till we meet again... P.s Save me a seat....

Amber Fields - December 10, 2019 at 10:18 AM



“ Lyle seemed to really like visiting with folks at the Senior Center, although I did not see him there often. When he WAS there, he was very talkative and ALWAYS smiling...that is what I, myself, remember most about him. He would give someone the gift of his smile and when he did, others could not help but smile back. I believe Lyle will be spending Christmas in heaven this year, and for that, my heart can be comforted and feel glad. To the family and friends of Lyle, may your own hearts be comforted as well. In this knowing.

Suane Zimmerman - December 10, 2019 at 08:28 AM



“ while I really never even knew his name, nonetheless, he would always come around on his amigo cart at Northland to tell me a naughty joke and tell me i was good looking :) nice guy, always happy and friendly!

Marge Dunlap - December 10, 2019 at 07:39 AM



“ So sorry for your lost. Lyle was a great neighbor and always had a joke to tell. Lyle will be greatly missed. Prayers to you Teri and your family. Robin Nyson and Kenzie Nyson

Robin Nyson - December 09, 2019 at 10:06 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. I met Lyle at the Kalkaska Senior Center 13 years ago. He was always full of jokes and a smile.

Cindy Ingalls - December 09, 2019 at 04:53 PM



“ So sad! His humor was awesome!

Susan Hobson - December 10, 2019 at 11:25 AM



“ So sad his friendly smile will alway be missed

watchock's - December 11, 2019 at 10:24 AM