



Russell Dean Willingham

February 17, 1938 - January 26, 2015

Russell Dean Willingham, 76, of Kingsley, passed away on Monday, January 26, 2015 at his home, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on February 17, 1938, in Shelbina, Missouri, the son of the late Bart and Lynette Willingham. Russ graduated from Shelbina High School in 1956 and joined the US Navy, where he served for 6 years. He was an over the road truck driver for Michigan Milk Producers, Cherry Growers Inc., Burke Energy, and Mikowski and Son until his retirement. Russ was a member of Kingsley United Methodist Church, member of King's Men, the Kingsley Chamber of Commerce, and the Kingsley Lions Club. He was a past member of the American Legion of Kingsley; a member of the Michigan Area Blacksmith Association; he stamped shingles at the foundry at the Buckley Old Engine Show; worked with Habitat for Humanity and was a cub scout and boy scout leader. Russ married Joan (Newmarch), his "mail order bride" on August 19, 1959 at the Kingsley United Methodist Church. He is survived by his wife Joan; children: Barton (Lisa) Willingham, Melinda (Steve Smith) Stone-Willingham, and Jeffrey (Tina) Willingham; grandchildren: Christopher (Tara) Stone, Andrew (Leanna) Stone, Breanna (Cody) Willingham, Danielle Willingham, and Zachary Willingham; great grandchildren: Lillian, Evalynn, Gwendalynn, and Madalynn; and father in law Harold Newmarch. He was preceded in death by his parents Bart and Lynette; an infant brother and sister, mother in law Mary Newmarch, son in law Jeff Stone, one finger and a thumb. A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 21,

2015 at the Kingsley United Methodist Church. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 21. 1:00 PM (ET)

Kingsley United Methodist Church
113 Blair Street
Kingsley, MI 49649

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Tina Willingham - January 28, 2015 at 07:33 PM

SK

“ Russ was a kind and friendly man. He was a great conversationalist even with folks he just met. Condolences to Joan and family. I'm sure his presence will be missed by many friends and family.



sandra koglin - January 28, 2015 at 06:14 PM

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“ I am so sorry for your loss of Russ. My thoughts and prayers go out to you Joan and the rest of the family.
Marlene West (Baldwin)

Marlene West (Baldwin) - January 27, 2015 at 08:38 PM

ST

“ Joan, Bart, Melinda and Jeff,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. We always enjoyed visiting with Russ, what a wonderful man! He will be missed!
Love,
Sandy (Rice) Thompson and Curt Gibson

Sandy Thompson - January 27, 2015 at 06:05 PM