



George T. Searls

October 29, 1930 - June 10, 2023

George Tolson Searls, age 92, of Kankakee, peacefully passed away on Saturday, June 10, 2023, at his home, with his daughters by his side. He was born at St Mary's Hospital, in Kankakee, on October 29, 1930, the son of George Rich and Mable (Tolson) Searls. George met Betty Joan Vance on a blind date, and later married on June 20, 1953 in Paris Illinois, at the First Christian Church.

George was a jack of all trades and master of them all. He worked several jobs over the years. Armour Pharmaceuticals, Imperial International Learning and retired from Kankakee School District 111. He volunteered his time for many years on the school board. He also served as election judge, and on the City Planning Commission. George graduated from Kankakee High School and the University of Illinois. He then joined the United States Army and served as a captain in the Korean War.

George was a lifelong dedicated member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. He served as acolyte, usher, and warden for many years. George was a very positive, selfless, & uplifted man, who would do anything for anyone. He cherished & loved life, yet expressing he was ready to go home.

He climbed Mount Hood, helped his father-in-law farm in Paris Illinois. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and water skiing, playing golf and tennis. He looked forward to spending time with his children, grandchildren, and his great grandchildren. He also enjoyed spending time with his lunch bunch on Fridays.

Surviving are his daughters, Cynthia (Searls) Dupuis and Laura (Searls) Richard Wenzelman one daughter-in-law, Amy (Yovich) Searls; 10 grandchildren, Marah, Abigail, Van, and Joel (Mia) Searls. Kelsey (Erik)Tobey, Carly (Brian) Elliot, Luke Wenzelman, Ben (Claire) Wenzelman, Tori (Tim) O'Brien, and Bryce Tully Dupuis, 11 great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews and cousin Susan (Searls) Morris.

He is preceded in death by his beloved wife of 61 years Betty Jo, who passed on August 2, 2014, son George Vance, who passed away on March 24, 2022, sister Elizabeth (Searls) Harrington and cousin Joseph Tolson.

A celebration of life for George will be held at St Paul's Episcopal Church, in Kankakee on Saturday, August 19, 2023 from 9 AM until the service at 11 AM. Father Shane Spellmeyer will officiate, and all are invited to bring a story to share during the service. A luncheon will follow the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Laura Wenzelman, for George's wishes.

Well done, Dad, Grandpa, Great Grandpa!

PAX

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 19. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
298 S. Harrison
Kankakee, IL

Funeral Service

AUG 19. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
298 S. Harrison
Kankakee, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *George T. Searls*

October 08, 2023 at 04:39 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of George T. Searls.*



August 17, 2023 at 05:29 PM



“ *I find words hard to come by. George was simply a prince among men. He was so very kind. I honestly never heard a harsh word come from his lips. He had a gift for resolving conflicts, saying just the right thing to negate anger, and he could ALWAYS make you feel like a million dollars! It takes a huge heart and a genuine love for humanity to be like a George Serles. I know he and my dad will continue their friendship in Heaven.....and that makes my heart happy. M. Louise Jennings*

Louise Jennings - August 10, 2023 at 04:11 PM



“ *I have known George and his family for many years. He gave me my first job at imperial international Learning , and I was always so grateful. He's a kind and generous man, and will be missed by many.*

Glendal Kilbride - June 27, 2023 at 06:29 PM

CF

“ George was a coworker at King Middle School. When it snowed he would go out and remove the snow from everyone's windows. He was a true gentleman.

Cheryl Frakes - June 16, 2023 at 08:53 PM

MH

“ Sincere condolences to the family. George was a friend to my husband at the lunches he attended with the "group," He always came home with nice words to share. I remember him for his big smile and jokes from years past when the friends went fishing in Canada! May he rest in peace.

Marsha Hill - June 12, 2023 at 10:19 AM

KE

“ My Grandpa George was the best! They do not make them like him anymore. He will be dearly missed but his memory and stories of him shared forever.

Kelsey - June 11, 2023 at 11:03 AM

AS

“ George was a father figure to me. The greatest man I've ever known. He is with his wife and son now. He is at peace. I broke my foot few years back really bad. I was in so much pain. He was so worried. He made sure I got taken care of. Was put in cast up to my knee. Problem was getting me into my house up the stairs. Now I laugh. They had the whole neighborhood over helping getting me up and in. It really was quite comical. Daddio was so funny I will miss him tremendously...
Sincerely
Alexia Chambers Sanders



Alexia Sanders - June 10, 2023 at 04:58 PM

WH

George..... kind, intelligent, humorous and humble. He and Betty Jo have been our Rainy Lake island neighbors for generations. So many summer memories, all of which were enjoyable and often educational. George never stopped reading to continue his thirst to learn something new, or refresh the old lessons from a long life lived. We honor you George and will cherish our memories . Peace and Love to the entire Searls family ❤️

Wayne and Margaret Holmestad & Family.

Wayne and Margaret Holmestad - June 11, 2023 at 08:27 AM

RM

My condolences to his family 🕊️ I worked with George at Kankakee School District 111 and the most amazing person anyone could ever meet!!! May his memory be with his loved ones forever 💖

Rosetta Mason - June 17, 2023 at 09:05 AM