



Norman Ray Graham

February 27, 1934 - July 7, 2021

Norman Graham, 87, of Kankakee passed away on Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at Amita St. Mary's Hospital.

He was born on February 27, 1934 in Arkansas, the son of Troy and Beatrice (Johnson) Graham. He married Nida Patalinghug on January 27, 2013 in Kankakee.

He worked at Economy Lamp Works in Chicago as foreman. Through hard work and the success he brought to the company, he was promoted to vice president and general manager before purchasing the business in 1985. He relocated the business along with his family to downtown Kankakee in 1989. He ministered for many years at 2 local nursing homes: Momence Meadows and Bourbonnais Terrace. He was devoted to his faith as a member of the Real Life Church of Kankakee. Norman was a servant of God who was dedicated to helping feed and serve anyone that lived in his community. He believed in leading by example and would give you the shirt off his back. He also actively donated his time to Fortitude Community Outreach in Kankakee.

He is survived by his loving wife, Nida Graham; his children; Gary (Iris) Graham of Bradley, Tammy (Rod) Parchman of Cunningham, TN, Scott (Nicky) Graham of Kankakee; a daughter-in-law, Jan Graham-Fritz of Kankakee; 13 grandchildren, Jennifer (Nate) Stout, Melissa (Dave) O'Connor,

Jessica (Kirk) Ogryzek, Dan Graham, Lauren (Anthony)Andre, Joshua Parchman, Tabitha Parchman, Caleb Parchman, Jesse Parchman, Miya (Andrew Petitgoue) Graham, Dylan Graham, Ethyn Graham, and Clayton Graham; 6 great grandchildren; Henry, Lassiyah, Lamere, Jaxson, Jamie, and Jayson; 3 step children, Anna Clay of IN, Darlyn Thurman of MS, and Janice Davis of CA.

He is preceded in death by his loving wife of 49 years, Dorothy Graham (2002), his son; Terry Graham; his siblings, Leon Graham, Vena Quigley, Irma Schaeffer, Tom Graham; and a grandson, Benjamin Parchman.

Visitation will be held Monday, July 12, 2021 from 4-7 pm at Real Life Church in Kankakee. Funeral services will be held at Real Life Church on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 from 10 am until the service at 11am, officiated by Rev. Rod Parchman. Burial will follow at Kankakee Memorial Gardens.

In honor of Mr. Graham, please serve others as he would and pay it forward to your community while continuing to spread kindness. In honor of Mr. Graham the family is requesting you bring a donation of hygiene products for Fortitude Community Outreach in Kankakee County.

Memorials may be made to the wishes of the family.

Cemetery Details

Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 S 3000 E Road
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **12.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Real Life Church
2095 W. Station Street
Kankakee, IL 60901

Service

JUL **13.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Real Life Church
2095 W. Station Street
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall



“ *Norman Ray Graham*

October 08, 2023 at 04:39 PM



“ *Norman Graham, or Grandpa Norman as I've always called him, was an amazing man. He is the reason my dad and mom moved to Kankakee in 1989. I don't think I would be the person I am today if he hadn't been in my families lives. Although I am not his actual grandchild he had always treated me like one. I would go into Grahams furniture as a kid with my Girl Scout Cookies or my school fundraisers and he would always buy something from me even though his grandchildren were selling the same things. He was always so loving and caring to everyone he met. He will be missed terribly.*

Crystal (Yelton) Hampton - July 13, 2021 at 10:49 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Norman Ray Graham.*



July 12, 2021 at 11:59 AM

KA

“ *Kathleen lit a candle in memory of Norman Ray Graham*



Kathleen - July 11, 2021 at 12:55 AM

DS

“ *Dolores Shalek lit a candle in memory of Norman Ray Graham*



Dolores Shalek - July 10, 2021 at 11:16 PM

JA

“ *Goodbye for now friend We'll see you some glad morning when this life is over*

Jimmy Ashford - July 10, 2021 at 05:32 PM

JA

“ *See you later friend bye for now we'll see you in the morning*

Jimmy Ashford - July 10, 2021 at 05:31 PM

JA

“ *Jimmy Ashford lit a candle in memory of Norman Ray Graham*



Jimmy Ashford - July 10, 2021 at 05:30 PM

AA

“ *Rest in heaven grandpa. You we're really a support to my family*

Angela Azbell - July 10, 2021 at 04:15 PM

Y!

“ *Your Discover Life Family !!!! purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Norman Ray Graham.*



Your Discover Life Family !!!! - July 09, 2021 at 08:37 PM